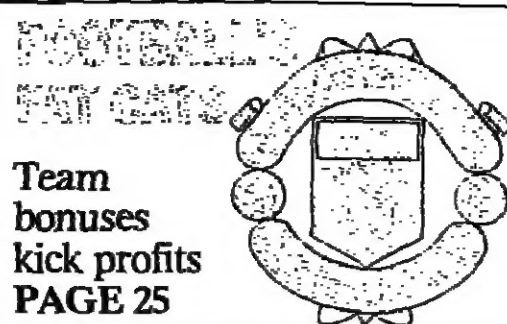
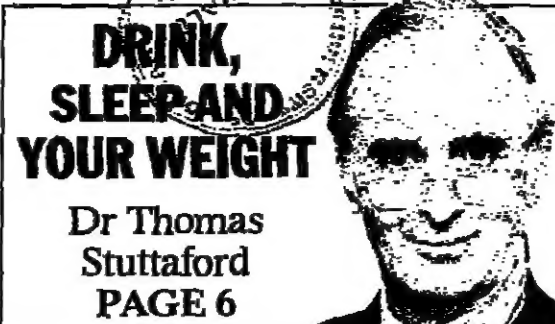




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'What counts is what works'

Blair drops opposition to privatisation

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

TONY BLAIR formally tore up his party's longstanding opposition to the sale of public assets yesterday, provoking misgivings within old Labour and derision from the Conservatives.

The Labour leader told a City audience: "It is the public interest that is important. What counts is what works." The presumption should be that economic activity was best left to the private sector.

But Mr Blair and his colleagues were branded a bunch of "unprincipled scoundrels" by Kenneth Clarke as the Tories stepped up their claims that Labour would say anything to get elected.

Their attacks increased when Gordon Brown confirmed that Labour had an "open mind" about the £500 million privatisation of the air traffic control system — even though the party's transport spokesman had insisted last October that "our air is not for sale".

And although most left-wingers remained silent, their lack of enthusiasm for Mr Blair's conversion to privatisation was apparent in some interviews. Barry Reamsbottom, general secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association, said that he would put "powerful arguments" to Mr Brown over the sale of the air traffic system.

John Monks, General Secretary of the TUC, seemed to be playing down Labour's shift when he told *The World at One* on BBC Radio that he would not expect a Labour government to follow the Con-

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6 If Francis of Assisi were to stand for Tatton, he would find himself under press suspicion

Matthew Parris, page 7

6 If you have taken a morale bash in the morning it is important to have a good lunch

Nicholas Soames on the campaign trail, page 8

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servatives, who were "clearing out every potentially lucrative bit of the public sector".

Margaret Beckett, the industry spokeswoman who is one of the few left-wingers in the Shadow Cabinet, described Mr Blair's remarks as "unexceptional, reasonable and sensible". She described suggestions of a mass sell-off as wild fantasy and said that Mr Brown's pledge to look at the sale of land and property held by government depart-

ments was not privatisation, but proper management.

Mr Brown's claims that he could raise big sums from a swift inventory of such property were rejected as a red herring by Mr Clarke, who described his shadow as "frankly not up to the job of being Chancellor". Asset sales were already accounted for in government spending plans, Mr Clarke said.

It is understood that in the current financial year there will be some £4 billion of asset sales, including money from the sale of student loan debt. Defence Ministry married quarters and Department of Social Security offices.

Mr Clarke said: "We have succeeded in showing that Labour are a bunch of unprincipled scoundrels. They have no conviction. They will say anything to get elected. The Labour movement is being led by the nose to ever more startling declarations of policy changes."

Mr Blair and his colleagues were unrepentant, claiming that the revision of Clause 4 had paved the way to embracing the private sector. However, there was no hint in the manifesto that Labour would consider privatising services and industries such as the air traffic system, ParcelForce, Channel Four and other possible candidates mentioned over the past few days.

In his City speech, Mr Blair insisted that there should be no dogmatic belief that either the private or public sector was better. Labour now carefully balanced its commitment to social justice with the commitment to a strong enterprise economy, he said.

"I certainly believe that where there is no overriding reason for preferring the public provision of goods and services — particularly where those services operate in a competitive market — then the presumption should be that economic activity is best left to the private sector with market forces being fully encouraged to operate."



"I call him Hamilton because I can never get him to come down"



Jockey Tony Dobbin and Lord Gyllene are given a police horse escort to the winners' enclosure yesterday after winning the Grand National

Delay fails to dampen National triumph

By Carol Midgley and Russell Jenkins

THE 150th Grand National went ahead two days late yesterday after being abandoned on Saturday because of two IRA bomb scares.

John Major, who arrived by helicopter for an unscheduled visit to the Merseyside course and the Princess Royal, who was caught up in the weekend chaos, watched Lord Gyllene, ridden by Tony Dobbin, win by 25 lengths, at 14-1.

After the race the jockeys, who were

applauded by 20,000 punters allowed in free, raised their hands and cheered in return. Aintree veterans said they had never heard a louder roar from the stands than when the first horse passed the winning post.

Punters, many of whom had not been able to afford to visit Aintree before, queued for hours to gain entry. At one point the line stretched as far as Walton, the neighbouring town. Many from other parts of the country had stayed on Merseyside since Saturday to see the race. Massive security surrounded the event.

The Prime Minister, who interrupted his election campaign to drop in at Aintree, said: "This is a message. No one can bomb the British people out of their habits and traditions."

The 24-year-old winning jockey, who comes from Downpatrick, Co. Down, described his victory as "the best moment of my life so far."

Lord Gyllene was trained by Steve Brookshaw, a former amateur jockey. His father, Peter, won a race at Aintree in 1950 and his brother trained a big winner at the Cheltenham Festival in 1984. His late uncle Tim, a champion

jump jockey in the 1950s, once finished second at Aintree on Wyndburgh, riding the final third of the course without a saddle. But in 1963 he was paralysed in a fall at the National course.

Winning owner Stan Clarke, 63, chairman of Newcastle and Uthmaniyah racetracks, bought Lord Gyllene after seeing a videotape of him race when the New Zealand-bred horse was still in his home country.

Leading article, page 17
Reports, pages 44 and 48

Hamiltons dismiss Bell as a stooge

By Russell Jenkins and Andrew Pierce

NEIL HAMILTON and his wife, Christine, promised to fight on yesterday after Martin Bell entered the election campaign with a pledge to draw the poison from public life.

Minutes after Mr Bell predicted that Mr Hamilton would stand down within 24 hours, the couple appeared on their doorstep to denounce the BBC foreign correspondent as a Labour stooge.

And in the face of polls suggesting Mr Bell could defeat Mr Hamilton in the Tories fifth safest seat, the Tatton Conservative Association issued a statement promising solid support for the MP, who faces his adoption meeting tonight. It ap-

peared that Mr Bell's appearance had hardened opinion in favour of Mr Hamilton among Tory activists. Many of the association's 1,500 members seem to resent the arrival on the scene of a household name and earlier promises of a secret ballot tonight were being reviewed by local officers.

Tory officials in London, accepting that only the Tatton association could force Mr Hamilton's removal, were meanwhile fearful that the high-profile contest would be a constant reminder during the campaign of the sleaze allegations that have dogged the Government for years.

At a packed press conference in central London, the veteran war correspondent, looking nervous and dressed in his trademark white suit, Continued on page 2, col 4

'Goldfinger' Palmer detained by police

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

DETECTIVES were last night questioning John "Goldfinger" Palmer, who built up a fortune after being acquitted of melting down gold bars from Britain's biggest bullion robbery, Christine Kettle, 36, his girlfriend was also arrested.

Officers from Scotland Yard's organised crime squad were interviewing Mr Palmer, 47, over an alleged £25-million timeshare fraud involving as many as 10,000 victims. He was arrested after going to Holborn police station in central London with his solicitor.

Mr Palmer, a jeweller and gold dealer, was cleared ten years ago of handling gold bars stolen in the £26-million Brink's Mat robbery near Heathrow Airport in 1983. Part of that haul was found to have been melted down in a private furnace at his Bath

mansion. He left the country but was arrested and tried when he returned. He was cleared of the Brink's Mat charges after the jury accepted that he did not know where the gold came from.

He had been accused of playing a key role in converting part of the Brink's Mat haul from gold into cash by melting it down with a quantity of copper in order to disguise its purity. He was also charged with arranging for the metal to be given a new hallmark and of selling it on the legitimate gold market described as jewellers' scrap.

This week Mr Palmer was ranked at number 51 in the *Sunday Times* guide to Britain's 1,000 richest people. The newspaper said his fortune was estimated at £300 million from his Tenerife timeshare business and other interests.

Africa 'is facing air catastrophe'

South African airline pilots — backed by the International Federation of Airline Pilots' Associations — have again issued a warning about the likelihood of "catastrophic accidents" in African airspace caused by the breakdown of air traffic control systems across the continent. Page 12

Hopes of orgasm pill for women

Scientists are holding out the prospect of an orgasm pill for women after discovering the chemical that tells the brain about sexual arousal. The drug, which could be available within 12 years, could also be used as a painkiller. Page 3

Pound surges

The pound surged past its old European exchange-rate mechanism floor yesterday, reaching its highest level since it left. Page 25

\$31 million is merchant bank's sweetener for Sugar

By Richard Thomson and Jon Ashworth

AN EXECUTIVE at Salomon Brothers in London was paid \$31 million (£19 million) last year.

Shigeru Myojin, known as "Sugar" to his colleagues, runs Salomon's proprietary trading and risk management operations, in which the bank bets its own money in the financial markets. He has been earning vast sums for years, but managed to avoid the limelight until he joined the board

in 1995, allowing details of his income to be laid bare.

The flamboyant 47-year-old trader drives a Ferrari and has been known to ride a bicycle around the dealing room. He occasionally appears at the bank's offices above Victoria Station wearing a US Army helmet and wielding a baseball bat.

His pay packet includes \$520,000 in salary, \$10 million bonus, \$206 million in shares, and \$18.3 million in deferred payments — far outstripping the \$11.5 million paid to Deryck

Maughan, who runs Salomon's worldwide operations.

A surge in merger activity has guaranteed huge bonuses in the City — a trend criticised by the Bank of England as a "one-way bet". Warren Buffett, who owns 9.4 per cent of Salomon, has also tried to turn the tide. In the early 1990s, he attempted to cut what he regarded as the vastly inflated salaries for which Salomon had become famous. But more than 50 executives resigned, and Mr Buffett had to return to the old pay scales.

Mr Myojin, born in Nagoya, Japan, has spent all his working life in London since graduating from university in Tokyo in 1973. In 1991, he made Salomon \$450 million — nearly half of its pre-tax profits. In 1994, he was paid \$20 million and announced that he was retiring. But he changed his mind when offered a directorship.

He is still not the world's best-paid investment banker, however. Joe Roby, head of the Wall Street firm Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette, received \$33 million last year.

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Butchers say new E. coli rules will close shops

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY AND
SHIRLEY ENGLISH

Report expected to recommend strict separation of raw and cooked meat

MANY of the 12,000 small butchers' shops may close because of new regulations expected today in the report on the E. coli epidemic, it was claimed yesterday.

The National Federation of Meat and Food Traders, which represents 3,000 butchers, said new safeguards could prove too expensive for a large number of small businesses. The report is also expected to be critical of government delays in implementing food safety guidelines, and to recommend tougher hygiene

standards for abattoirs and farmers.

Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, will unveil the report this afternoon. It will broadly retain the interim recommendations issued in January by the committee of inquiry chaired by Hugh Pennington, a microbiologist at Aberdeen University.

An important recommendation was the separation of raw and cooked products, with different staff, counters, refrigerators and cutting equip-

ment. A new licensing system for shops was also suggested.

The final report is expected to soften the recommendation on separate staff, saying this should be achieved "wherever possible" rather than being mandatory.

Cross-contamination between fresh and cooked meat is thought to have been the main cause of the most serious of the E. coli outbreaks, which claimed 18 lives and affected more than 400 people in Lanarkshire. Three other

people have been killed by E. coli recently.

John Fuller, director of the National Federation of Meat and Food Traders, said: "Small butchers' shops do not have the financial resources to fund extra staff and do not have the space to accommodate separate counters and refrigerators for fresh and cooked meat."

Gavin Strang, the Shadow Agriculture Minister, said the E. coli outbreaks and BSE presented an "unanswerable

case" for an independent Food Safety Agency. Dr Strang accused the Government of failing to enforce food safety regulations and of "running down" food safety research.

Professor Pennington is expected to emphasise the need for animals to be clean before slaughter. E. coli is found in the stomach and intestines of livestock and can be present in faeces and urine.

The interim report made only passing reference to the possible role of poor hygiene

in abattoirs. But at that time Professor Pennington was unaware of a damning report on abattoir conditions compiled in 1995 by the Meat Hygiene Service. The report, never published in full, was disclosed only last month.

Ann Foster, director of the Scottish Consumer Council and a member of Professor Pennington's committee, said: "Attempting to get consistently high standards in abattoirs, where the initial contamination takes place, will be a

central issue of our report."

Supermarkets yesterday said they would be willing to review hygiene procedures for raw and cooked meat although they considered their existing safeguards sufficient to eliminate risk of cross-contamination.

A Sainsbury's spokesman said: "All our staff already use separate utensils and wash their hands between operations. There are some stores where bacon and sausages are sold

from the delicatessen counter alongside cooked meats, and we would always be willing to review procedures in the light of expert opinion."

Tesco said fresh and cooked meat counters were partitioned rather than separate and refrigerators were compartmentalised. "We believe that our existing procedures are enough to ensure there is no risk of contamination," a spokesman said.

"If the final Pennington report recommends total physical separation of staff and equipment, we would have to comply, but it would add to costs."

Archbishops appeal for church arson attacks to end

BY NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

RELIGIOUS leaders in Northern Ireland united yesterday in condemnation of loyalist arsonists after another Roman Catholic church was badly damaged.

The 226-year-old Church of the Immaculate Conception at Mullavilly, Co. Armagh, was the fifth Catholic church to be attacked in less than a week. Archbishop Robin Eames, Primate of the Church of Ireland, visited the ruins of the small church to commiserate with Archbishop Sean Brady, the Roman Catholic Primate of All Ireland.

Dr Eames described the attack as a symbol of "naked, corrosive sectarianism". He said: "I would urge everyone who has any leadership that now is the time when Northern Ireland needs voices of vision... If these attacks continue our society will be dragged into a new nightmare of division and suffering."

Dr Brady urged against retaliation. "I am sad, shocked and angry at this attack on a peaceful community, where the people are devastated. But we are heartened by the support and the sympathy offered by people from all sides of the community. Many came here to express their revulsion and that is a heartening sign."

Within hours a Church of Ireland hall at Dungiven, Co. Londonderry, was damaged when a furniture store outside

was set ablaze. The hall was shortly to reopen after being damaged in an attack last year.

At the weekend arsonists destroyed one Catholic church in Co. Antrim and damaged another near by. A Baptist church building in east Belfast was destroyed last week, and a Church of Ireland hall in Co. Tyrone was damaged.

Father Kieran MacOscar, parish priest at Mullavilly, was told about the fire by a parishioner who woke him in the early hours yesterday. He said: "Our church is completely destroyed; only four walls remain."

The Rev Brian Harper, the local Church of Ireland rector, who lives close to the church, was appalled by the attack. "There is no way the Protestant community here would want anything like this. It will only serve to strengthen local community relations. When disasters like this happen everyone binds together."

Seamus Mallon, deputy leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, compared the arsonists to the Klu Klux Klan. Speaking after visiting the church, which is in the Newry and Armagh constituency he has represented for 11 years, Mr Mallon said: "I feel sadness and anger that a small community like this should be subjected once again to this sectarian bigotry."

Police said yesterday that the explosive was attached to a support column of the M6 near Bescot. If it had exploded it would have caused extensive damage to the column and the motorway would



Archbishop Brady, left, visiting the burnt-out church at Mullavilly yesterday with Father Kieran MacOscar

M6 bombs contained 4lb of Semtex

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

TWO bombs planted under the M6 by the IRA each contained 2lb of commercial explosives which, if detonated, would have caused extensive damage to the road. The devices, which failed to explode, brought chaos to the busiest section of road in Europe last week and caused widespread traffic disruption across the Midlands.

Police said yesterday that the explosive was probably Semtex. One of the bombs was attached to a support column of the M6 near Bescot. If it had exploded it would have caused extensive damage to the column and the motorway would

have had to be closed for repair work.

Anti-terrorist officers have also traced the telephone box from which the IRA terrorists made calls to two hotels in Walsall, warning that a bomb would explode under the motorway on Thursday. Bob Packham, Assistant Chief Constable (Crime) in the West Midlands, said: "We now believe that the telephone calls, which have now been claimed by the IRA, were made from telephone boxes in Manzoní Gardens, near Birmingham New Street station."

Police yesterday interviewed people in the area around Manzoní Gardens and forensic experts have searched the telephone boxes. The calls were made at 8am on Thursday. Mr Packham said: "We

have already had interview teams looking for witnesses this morning. I am appealing to anyone who was in that vicinity last Thursday morning to contact police immediately."

He said that the public needed to remain vigilant and to report anything suspicious to the police. He warned: "Terrorism can take many forms."

Police declined to confirm whether they believe the same people are responsible for the recent spate of terrorist incidents, including the hoax call which forced the abandonment of the Grand National on Saturday and the bomb explosions at Wilmslow in Cheshire.

Leading article, page 17

Fire risk to countryside

BY NICK NUTTALL

MORE than a hundred firemen battled a blaze that affected 60 acres of forest and heathland in Berkshire yesterday, triggering concern that beauty spots across the country could face serious damage from the dry conditions.

Fire crews faced difficulties in containing the fire at Crowthorne, near Broadmoor hospital, because of problems in getting water appliances

into the woods. They used firebreaks to control the flames, which were being fanned by strong winds. The fire, believed to have been started by a discarded cigarette, was brought under control late yesterday afternoon.

The fire, believed to be the first sizeable one in England this year, comes after the driest two-year period on record. Firefighters were also called to Yarnor Wood nature reserve, near Bovey Tracey, Devon, yesterday. The Royal

Society for the Protection of Birds urged the public to be careful with matches and cigarettes. It said heathland wildlife, including birds such as nightjars and Dartford warblers, were vulnerable.

The warning came as farmers in Essex claimed the dry conditions were threatening their barley and wheat crop. On the Clacton peninsula less than half a millimetre of rain has fallen recently.

Forecast, page 24

Hamiltons dismiss Bell

Continued from page 1

said he was responding to the wishes of ordinary people by standing.

Mr Bell, 58, did not expect the contest to go the distance and he predicted that Mr Hamilton would be out of the race by tomorrow. He would then stand down. "My belief is that I am the shortest-lived political candidate with the shortest-lived political career you will ever see and by Wednesday morning it will all be over," he said. However, he

promised that he would serve his full term as an MP if elected, although he would "rather dodge bullets in snipers' alley in Bosnia" than fight the election campaign.

Minutes later Mrs Hamilton, accompanied by her husband and their friend the Coronation Street actor William Roache, told reporters outside her Cheshire home: "If you think we are going to chicken out three-and-a-half weeks before polling day, you are all mad."

"We have stood shoulder to shoulder fighting in this constituency and it is a complete nonsense for Martin Bell to flip in here and think he can win. The reason I am speaking is that Neil cannot speak to the cameras due to the Representation of the People Act."

"Martin Bell has nothing whatsoever to do with Tatton... Why should my husband stand down when he is totally innocent? This is all because Liberal and Labour don't want to talk about the real issues."

WPC accuses bosses of sex harassment

A policewoman suffered a three-year campaign of sexual and verbal harassment from her superiors intended to drive her out of the force, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

WPC Sharon Empson, 34, who is now on extended sick leave from her job at Doncaster, was targeted by five officers "whose intention was to rid the force of this officer by hook or by crook" said her solicitor, Tina Martin. "There was an unwritten policy against this applicant."

Louise Varty, a solicitor for South Yorkshire Police, said: "These are individual acts, disparate and committed by different people. What is alleged cannot be interpreted as a policy or practice." Alan Simpson, the tribunal chairman, dismissed all but three of the allegations saying they had been made outside the permitted three-month time limit. He said: "There is no common thread between those acts. She believes there was a policy to get rid of her but she could not identify the common thread." The remaining allegations will be heard at a resumed tribunal at a date to be set.

Surgeon attacks Evans

Chris Evans, the media celebrity, has been accused of inciting his fans to make fun of people less attractive than themselves. Professor Duncan McGrouther, a plastic surgeon, says Evans' "Ugly Bloke" slot on his TFI Friday show demonstrates how people can be encouraged to pick on the disfigured. Writing in the *British Medical Journal*, Professor McGrouther, of University College, says pressure to conform to a "look" diminishes the value of those who fail to measure up to it. "Incitement to pick on the disfigured is widespread - Chris Evans' Ugly Bloke feature is a gross example. Were film-makers to tackle race or sex in the way they tackle beauty or ugliness they would be prosecuted."

Prince returns in peace

The Duke of York will return to the cruise liner *Canberra* in Southampton today for the first time since he landed his helicopter on the deck of the ship during the Falklands War. The Duke, who 15 years ago was a Royal Navy helicopter pilot flying in support of the task force, will be among 350 guests at a dinner on board *Canberra*. The dinner is being hosted by Lord Sterling of Plaistow, the P&O chairman, and is being held to commemorate the fifteenth anniversary of the commissioning of *Canberra* and five other P&O ships for the Falklands campaign. After the dinner, Lord Lewis, Admiral of the Fleet, and Baroness Thatcher will speak.

Pilot error caused crash

Pilot error was to blame for the mid-air collision of two £20 million RAF Tornado jets in a training attack soon after take-off from RAF Coningsby, Lincolnshire, in January 1996, the crash report said yesterday. An experienced fighter pilot, who was converting to the Tornado F3 jet, locked his radar on to a second, "enemy", Tornado. But he descended out of his 12,000ft "height box" before making visual contact and glimpsed the second Tornado only half a second before impact. The "enemy" pilot also overestimated the distance to the other aircraft. Two of the aircrew were seriously injured; the other two suffered minor injuries.

Quarry murder charge

A man was charged yesterday with the murder of Louise Smith, 18, whose naked body was found in a stone quarry at Vale, near Bristol. An Avon and Somerset police spokesman said: "A 21-year-old man has been charged with her murder and a serious sex assault which arises from the same incident. He has been detained overnight in custody."

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Minicab driver jailed for series of sex attacks on lone women

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

A MINICAB driver was jailed yesterday for 14 years for a series of sex attacks on women that he made after he had driven them home.

Over four years Denis Barthram chose to assault single women who were young, living alone and not in a relationship. In 1987 he had been jailed for 18 months for assaulting a woman while posing as a jogger.

Barthram admitted attacking four women but police suspect he could be responsible for other offences committed against women.

Judge Denison, Common Sergeant of London, told Barthram at the Old Bailey: "Over four and a half years you used your employment as a minicab driver to identify women who lived alone and then sexually assaulted them. The effects are appallingly serious and in most cases very long lasting. Some of your victims may never completely recover from the effects of your activities."

Barthram, 34, of Hainault in Essex, admitted one rape, three indecent assaults and a burglary. He had originally faced another charge of rape and other indecent assaults, which he had denied. The Crown Prosecution Service did not proceed with those charges, which included an attack on a 15-year-old girl.

John Black, for the prosecution, said that three women had positively identified Barthram as the man who had broken into their homes and attacked them while they slept. He said that after Barthram's pleas it would not be in the public interest to try him for the offences, as this would only put the women through the harrowing ordeal of giving evidence in public.

Barthram was caught after indecent phone calls were traced to his home.

In January 1991, while



Barthram threatened to kill his victims
"I know where you live. If you tell anyone, I will come and get you."

working with Redbridge Radio cars in east London, he singled out a secretary, aged 22, from Walthamstow in east London. As she returned from work, Barthram attacked her from behind, pushed her through her front door and warned her: "If you scream, I'll kill you."

She was crying and frozen with fear before Barthram raped her. As he left her house, he said: "I know where you live. If you tell anyone, I will come and get you." The woman still suffers nightmares.

In 1993 he attacked a sales assistant, aged 25, in her home at Wanstead, Essex. He leapt on her bed, put his hand over her mouth and told her he was working with a knife. The woman was then stripped

naked. Judge Denison was told that the woman has been traumatised by her ordeal and was now terrified of the slightest noise.

In December 1994, Barthram attacked a hairdresser, aged 25, living in a ground-floor flat in Ilford, Essex. She had left her patio door open for her cat and was asleep on her sofa. Barthram, who was wearing a hood over his head, put his hand on her mouth and told her to "keep quiet". The woman managed to fight off Barthram. After more than two years, she was still unable to sleep properly at nights.

Four months later Barthram attacked a dress designer, aged 26, in her home at Woodford, Essex. He pinned her down on her bed but she fought back and he ran off, stealing some of her underwear.

Ronald Thwaites, QC, mitigating, said Barthram was now friendless and full of self-loathing. He had been deserted by his girlfriend and child.

Outside the court, Detective Constable Tony Crofts said that police believed that Barthram carried out long-term surveillance on his victims. "He knew who these women were. He knew their habits. He knew exactly what their movements were and waited his opportunity. It is a terrifying thought for any woman," he said.

The Public Carriage Office licenses all drivers of black taxis in London and during the application process police check if an applicant has a criminal record. There is no screening of people driving minicabs, as they are unlicensed.

Under the Police Bill, which received the Royal Assent last month, a Criminal Records Agency is to be created. An employer will be able to ask a job applicant to provide a criminal conviction certificate, which will show information about unspent convictions.

Oasis star has his morning glory in private

By BILL FENNET

LIAM GALLAGHER and Patsy Kensit, Britpop's most turbulent couple, rose early yesterday hoping to end a media feeding frenzy over their stormy courtship and begin a new life together as man and wife.

The Oasis singer — who shares an estimated £40 million fortune with his brother Noel — and the actress went through a simple marriage ceremony at Westminster Register Office in Marylebone Road at about 8.30am. The only guests present were the witnesses, friends named as Colin Radcliffe and Mr F. Graham.

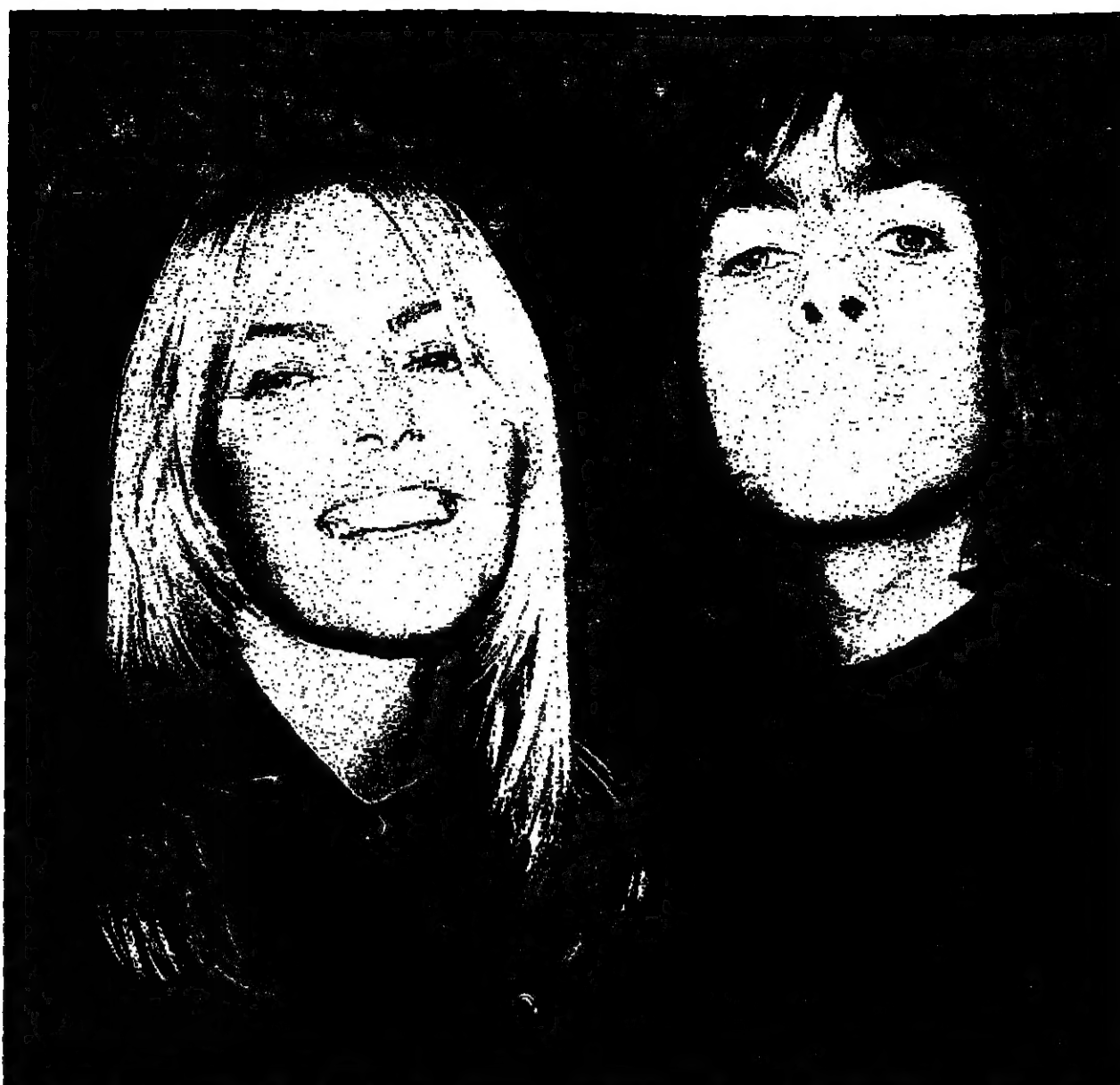
Gallagher's brother and fellow band member Noel was fast asleep when the marriage took place. Appearing outside his house in Belsize Park, north London, he congratulated the newlyweds. "It is brilliant, really great. But it was really too early. I wasn't there. I was in bed," he said.

The marriage certificate stated that Liam John Paul Gallagher, 24, "a bachelor and musician of 8 St John's Wood Terrace," had married Patricia Jude Francis (sic) Kensit. She gave her age as 29 and listed her profession as actress. She lives at the same address as Mr Gallagher. The certificate said her previous marriage, to Jim Kerr, singer with the band Simple Minds, in 1992, had been dissolved. The marriage lasted four years.

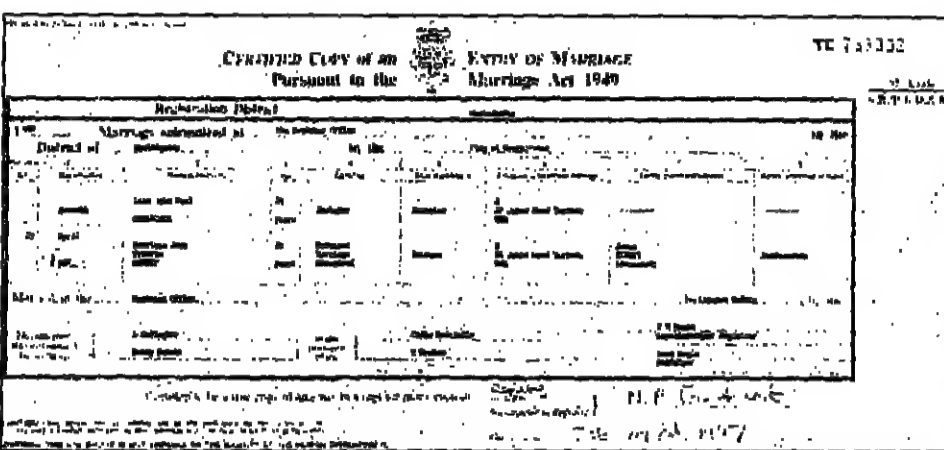
"Liam and Patsy did not invite any friends or family to the ceremony," the band's record company said. "Nor will there be a party or honeymoon because the couple are too busy. It was totally, totally private with just them and the registrar. They chose that office because it is the appropriate one of the area in which they live."

This is Ms Kensit's third marriage — she wed Dan Donovan from the band Big Audio Dynamite in Scarborough, North Yorkshire, in 1988. The marriage lasted three months.

The groom's family agreed to stay away "to prevent the news leaking out". Peggy



Liam Gallagher and Patsy Kensit, top, whose marriage was conducted by Katherine Mason, below right



Gallagher, his mother, said: "When Liam rang this morning and said he and Patsy were married, I was just delighted. He told me he was happy and he hoped that I would be happy for them. I said, 'As long as you're happy then I'm happy'. Both of them seemed over the moon. All I can say is good luck to them."

hope it will all turn out well for them."

Katherine Mason, the superintendent registrar, described yesterday's ceremony as "very private and very personal". She refused to give details of the bride's dress or the couple's rings, saying she had been sworn to secrecy. "We would do the same thing

for any couple. I just dealt with them myself and didn't let anyone else know about it — even my husband."

"They were overjoyed that they managed to get away without any photographers seeing them, or any bother. They simply wanted to make a commitment to each other without any hassle," she said.

Meanwhile, a punter from Telford who staked £140 on the couple to marry during 1997 at odds of 3/1 yesterday made a profit of £420.

Hill's are now offering odds of 5/4 for the Gallaghers to still be married at the turn of the century, and 50/1 that they will celebrate their golden anniversary.

Officer held hostage in escape wins £14 m award

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE Home Office yesterday agreed to pay almost £14 million damages to a former prison officer who was attacked by a prisoner downgraded to a lower security rating so he could be transported in a minibus instead of a secure prison van.

While supervising prisoners being moved from Leeds to Durham in 1990, Sidney Birchall was pinned on the floor of the minibus and forced to surrender the handcuff keys with a shard of pottery held to his neck.

York County Court was told that Mr Birchall, 47, suffered post-traumatic stress disorder and has been unable to work. Yesterday the Home Office admitted liability and agreed to pay £245,000 damages in an out-of-court settlement.

Mr Birchall said that he had requested a secure vehicle when he learned one of the prisoners was an armed robber and classified as a potential escapee, but was told that none was available. Instead the prisoner was reclassified.

Mr Birchall was held hostage until the prisoners abandoned the minibus and hijacked a car. He chased them and later they were caught by police. His solicitor yesterday said no amount of damages could compensate for his experience.

Husband strangled wife denied bed in mental hospital

By LIN JENKINS

A DEVOTED husband who endured 30 years of his wife's manic depression and strangled her days after she was refused admission to a mental hospital was jailed for four years yesterday.

Canterbury Crown Court was told that it would not be in the public interest to seek a murder conviction after John Clark, 59, a Kent County Council highways inspector, admitted manslaughter on grounds of provocation.

Clark told police after he killed his wife, Mary, 52, that he was at his wits' end from lack of support from the authorities. He said he had continued his 33-year marriage because he had wed "for better or worse".

In October 1995 the couple spent a morning gardening, ate Sunday lunch at their home in Sevenoaks, Kent, and had planned a trip to Penhurst Place, an historic house. Clark was anxious about the visit because his wife's illness made her prone to mood swings and violence, and she appeared to sense that.

He told police: "She came at me with her hand out. She grabbed me by the mouth. Her hand was like a claw. I bit her finger and she yelped, and pulled it out."

"She was failing and lashing. I grabbed her around the neck. I was amazed, within a

few seconds she was floppy. I thought she was going. She had gone all limp so I straightened her out and I said, 'Come on, you are all right', but then I saw she wasn't and I couldn't feel a pulse."

When an ambulance crew arrived Clark said: "She came at me and I squeezed her throat. She is a manic depressive. I cannot put up with any more. I have had enough."

Three days earlier he had taken his wife to Pembury Hospital after a community psychiatric nurse had advised admission, but more senior medical advice disagreed. In the year before her death Mrs Clark had been admitted to a psychiatric ward twice as a sectioned patient and once voluntarily. Her illness made her abusive, aggressive, hyperactive and incoherent.

Andrew Patience, QC, for the prosecution, said: "She didn't do such things because she liked it but because she was a prisoner of her own illness. The defendant remained loyal throughout all these years having clearly much to put up with."

Nicholas Valios, QC, for the defence, said Clark could not believe his wife had died. "He was deeply in love with his wife. He still misses her greatly and despite the history he would never have a wrong thing said about her."

Telephone suitor is jailed for persistence

By A STAFF REPORTER

A REJECTED suitor who thought love should last for ever telephoned his former university sweetheart 142 times in a day. Nicholas Collier played music and spouted poetry in the unwelcome calls.

Yesterday Collier, 22, was jailed for two months for his remorseless campaign to win back the affections of Olivia Shaw, 21. At Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, central London, he admitted six charges of making nuisance calls to cause annoyance, inconvenience or needless anxiety.

Collier, of Kensington, West London, was said to have a privileged, public-school background, but his parents were divorced. A relationship with Miss Shaw at Bradford University ended after eight months. Two weeks later, he started phoning her at her parents' home in Kent and at her student accommodation to get her to agree to a reconciliation.

After three months, she contacted police. In a statement, she said: "Nicholas has made hundreds of calls at all hours. The distress affected my work and my life."

Collier told police: "I just keep calling her because she knows deep down in her soul that we're connected."

Lover boy threatened by 'thrill pill'

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

MEN, already facing redundancy in the reproduction department because of cloning, could be rendered completely superfluous by a female orgasm pill.

Two scientists have discovered the body chemical that transmits word of sexual arousal to the female brain. Within 12 years vasoactive intestinal peptide could be available in pill form.

Beverly Whipple and Barry Komisaruk found that orgasms can be transmitted to the brain by the wide-ranging vagus nerve as well as the spinal cord. They made their discovery while

studying a group of women who had been paralysed by back injuries.

Spinal injury victims were thought to be incapable of having orgasms, but the Rutgers researchers found otherwise. "Contrary to what people may think, we discovered that women in the study who were paralysed and had no feeling below the chest area were, in fact, capable of having non-genital orgasms," Professor Komisaruk said.

Their experiments identified the neurotransmitter vasoactive intestinal peptide as the chemical that enabled the women to reach such a state. Professor Komisaruk, a psychologist, said that it was now possible that an orgasm drug — one New York newspaper yesterday

colourfully hailed it as the "thrill pill" — could be produced, not only for the obvious reasons, but also as a painkiller during moments of sexual arousal, the brain often ignores pain.

Development of any such pill would need prolonged investment, probably by a major pharmaceuticals company. Professor Komisaruk said. He and Professor Whipple are continuing their research, which is still at the "basic" stage, on laboratory rats.

Professor Whipple, who in 1982 wrote a well-received book, *The G-Spot and Other Recent Discoveries About Human Sexuality*, said that the research could eventually help women with neurological problems to lead healthy sex lives.

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Let poorest nations off their debts, bishops say

By RUTH GLEDHILL

THE Roman Catholic bishops of England and Wales yesterday called for action to clear the debts of poorer nations.

The bishops, at their annual post-Easter meeting in London, said: "We urge the Government to continue to press for long-term solutions which would allow these countries to achieve debt sustainability, and to press for the cancellation of the unpayable debts of the most impoverished nations."

Calling for generous application of a proposal by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund scheme, for banks and other creditors to donate cash to help resolve the debts, the bishops said: "The start of the new millennium should be a time to give hope to impoverished people, and to put behind us the mistakes of lenders and borrowers."

Rural churches pin hopes of revival on £12.5m grant

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 150 rural church buildings will benefit from £12.5 million of lottery money if a bid by the Rural Churches in Community Service to the Millennium Commission is successful. The bid is being backed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, and the Church and Community Trust, an ecumenical Christian charity aimed at keeping churches as part of their communities.

Stan Evans, director of the trust, which organised a conference in Westminster yesterday, said: "We want churches to be well-loved and well-used, to return them to their once-central role in communities."

Jane Kennedy, a trustee of the Church and Community Trust and the surveyor at Ely Cathedral, said: "The church building is often the oldest building in a rural community and carries the traditions of the past into the present and future. English Heritage and

other conservation bodies recognise the need to meet contemporary requirements and respond positively to well-thought-out and sensitive proposals such as those which the bid will encourage."

One beneficiary of the funding could be the 12th-century priory of St Mary and St Blaise at Boxgrove, West Sussex. Although the priory is large, beautiful and the second-most important church in the Chichester diocese after the cathedral, it has none of the supporting staff, endowments or income enjoyed by a cathedral. Even its vicar is only part-time.

Founded by Benedictines from Normandy in 1117, the priory now serves a congregation of 180 in a village with a population of 800. Its acoustics make it popular for concert recordings but there are no office or other facilities.

The lottery money would be used to build a church hall,

meeting room, and an office with desktop publishing, fax and Internet facilities. Jane Field, a churchwarden, said: "The problem is we have this beautiful, incredible church but with no kitchen, toilet or meeting rooms and a congregation of 180. We welcome a large number of visitors each year, and if we had an office we could get a lot more out of the priory."

She said £60,000 had already been raised and £75,000 millennium funding was being sought. English Heritage gives the priory grant aid and has put Boxgrove on its pilgrim tourist trail for this year's anniversary celebrations of the arrival in England of St Augustine, the missionary sent from Rome who founded the see of Canterbury in 597.

Because the priory is a Grade I listed building, no alterations can be made. If the parish succeeds in raising

sufficient funds, the proposed new buildings will be constructed on the site of an old donkey stable behind the church on the Goodwood Estate. A computer has already

been donated and if the office is built, villagers will have access to it for word processing, desktop publishing and accessing the Internet. The priory is one of 168 rural

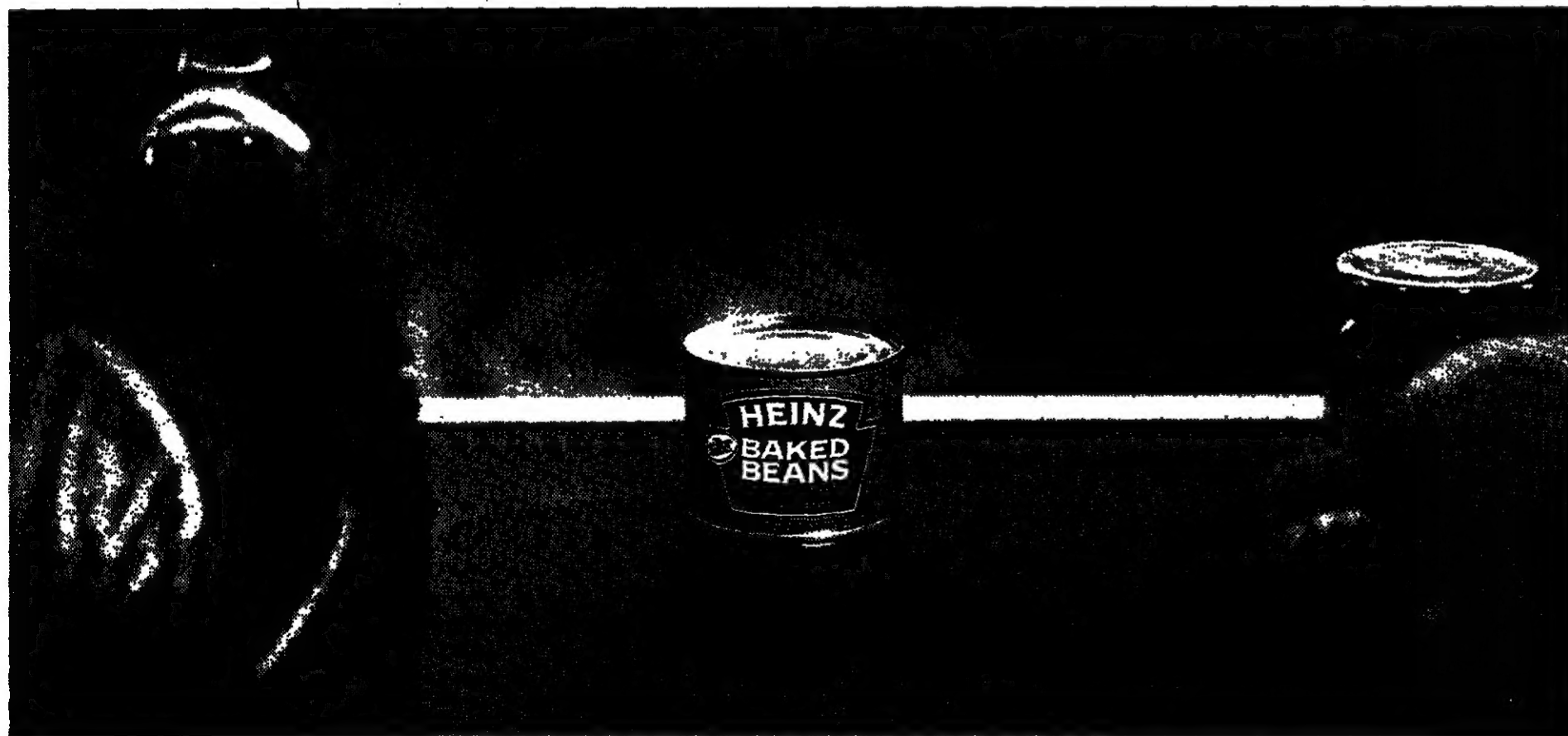
churches, nearly all Church of England, which included in the bid for the lottery money which the Millennium Commission distributes. Other proposals include concert fa-

cilities at a Warwickshire church, a visitor centre at a countryside church in Cumbria, a counselling centre at a Wolverhampton church and an arts centre in Lincolnshire.



Boxgrove Priory, West Sussex, founded 880 years ago. Lottery money could help modernise the facilities

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Nurse jailed for animal cruelty at pet sanctuary

By PAUL WILKINSON

A NURSE was jailed for six months yesterday for causing unnecessary suffering to animals in her pet sanctuary.

RSPCA investigators found starving horses lying in fields, dozens of dogs crammed into a small caravan and a crippled donkey hobbling around on its ankles. One horse, Sunshine, and a dog had to be put down immediately.

Jane Nichols, 50, was banned from ever keeping animals again. The magistrates also issued a warrant without bail for the arrest of her son Kevin, 26, who failed to appear in court for sentence. He and his mother had been jointly found guilty of 11 counts of cruelty at an earlier hearing.

Nichols, who presented her own case to magistrates, still denied she had done anything wrong as she appeared for sentence. She ran her sanctuary at Cookswood, Co Durham, where she lived in a caravan in an adjoining field. The court heard that when RSPCA inspectors raided the site there were at least 30 starving dogs in one caravan.

In a nearby hut, emaciated cats were found without food and water, their litter trays overflowing. They were taken into RSPCA care.

Nichols cried in court as she said: "I have never ill-treated any animals. I used to walk all over the place to get food for them."

The RSPCA will now have to find homes for a further 40



Nichols: banned from keeping animals

dogs, several cats and six horses, which were being removed yesterday.

David Balls, chairman of the magistrates, told Nichols: "You failed to provide reasonable care for any of these animals for a long time. Yet faced with all the evidence and photographs showing how bad the animals were you continue to protest your innocence."

Michael Moreland, for the prosecution, said: "This is the worst sort of cruelty because it was sustained. It worries me that even after conviction she is still in the frame of mind where she says she has done nothing wrong. She is not a fit person to keep animals."

Inspector Ian Smith of the RSPCA said: "The sentence shows the severity of the case and we are pleased with it. As an organisation we are about £11,000 out of pocket through this. But that is our job."

Legend blamed on monkey business

By PAUL WILKINSON

FOR more than two centuries, the citizens of Hartlepool have tried to live down the tale of a hanged monkey. Now research suggests the story was a wicked capitalist plot to smear fishermen embroiled in a dispute at the former port on Teesside.

Legend says that during the war with 18th-century revolutionary France, a French ship was wrecked off the coast. The only survivor was a monkey, dressed in the tradition of the time, as a sailor. Fear of the Frenchies was high and, mistaking the poor animal's gibbering for an alien language, the locals hanged it as a French spy.

Aimee Jackson, a film-maker from Guisborough, a few miles down the coast, is planning a television docu-

mentary to set the record straight. She said yesterday: "There is a lengthy gap between when the hanging was supposed to have taken place and the first written record."

The dispute between the local fishermen and the Hartlepool Dock Board became very bitter and the company used to refer to the fishermen as 'aquatic monkeys'. It might be that they developed this into the monkey tale to blacken the name of the fishermen.

Miss Jackson, 25, has turned her research into a screenplay that has attracted the attentions of Channel 4. She said: "There are other places with similar legends, including Cornwall and Scotland, which would suggest it is not a true story."

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Rich reward for staff who made life less of a chore

By ROBIN YOUNG

DOROTHEA COPPING was brought up in an age when loyalty counted for something, and when she died she rewarded her faithful servants handsomely. Her housekeeper, gardener and a former chauffeur will receive a total of £175,000 from an estate valued at £545,000.

Joyce Twiddy, who cared for Mrs Copping's homes for a quarter of a century, will receive £75,000. Russell Copsey and Eric Pospischil will each receive £50,000. None of the three has yet given thought to what they will do with the gifts, which they described as totally unexpected.

Mrs Copping died in December aged 81. Her late husband, Bernard, made his fortune running Comyn, a silver and goldsmith, which supplied jewellers such as Asprey and Garrard.

The couple, who had no children, lived at Morston Hall, near Cromer, Norfolk, until Mr Copping died in 1986. Mrs Copping, who could speak nine languages, took her domestic staff with her when she moved to a six-



Dorothea Copping, shown in her late 20s, bequeathed £50,000 to Eric Pospischil, her husband's chauffeur

bedroom home overlooking the sea at nearby Blakeney.

She lived quietly in the village, where she made unpublicised donations to two local churches, wrote children's books and worked for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. Her will included bequests to a godson, her husband's god-daughter and friends in Germany.

Mrs Twiddy, of Lanham, Norfolk, said yesterday: "I worked for her daily, sometimes for the whole day and other times just a couple of hours. She was lovely to work

derful to work for. She loved her garden and always wanted fresh flowers available," he said yesterday.

"We got on well and she was good to me. She did not promise me anything when she was alive and I did not expect anything, but on her deathbed she told me how pleased she was that I had treated her as if I was her son. It is a fantastic amount of money that Mrs Copping has left me and I am really grateful."

Mr Copsey will continue tending the garden until the house, on the market for £375,000, is sold. He has also taken in an 11-year-old Staffordshire terrier, one of two dogs Mrs Copping had when she died.

Mr Pospischil, 68, of Andover, Hampshire, was Mr Copping's chauffeur for nine years until his death. He took a job elsewhere, but remained friendly with Mrs Copping and drove her in her Mercedes or her VW Passat on trips to Europe. "She would pay for the trip so it would be a break for me as well, and I did it without remuneration," Mr Pospischil said.

Mr Copsey, who was paid £108 for a 44-hour week, also did odd jobs and exercised Mrs Copping's six Staffordshire terriers. "She was won-



Russell Copsey planted 7,000 tulip bulbs for his employer, and has now given a home to one of her dogs

Three face sack after criticising bosses

By IAN MURRAY

THREE council employees face dismissal for gross misconduct after they were secretly recorded criticising their superiors.

The two engineers and a product development officer at Nottingham City Council were suspended the day after a tape of their lunchtime conversation was handed to the city's internal audit department. Two of them will appear before a disciplinary panel tomorrow and the third will be dealt with soon.

The recording was made last November by a client in the council's business centre, which gives help and advice to people wanting to set up small businesses and where some offices are rented out to private firms. "There were allegations of gross misconduct and we suspended the staff involved as a precaution as soon as we heard the tapes," the council said yesterday. "Since then we have been interviewing a number of clients at the business centre and heard more allegations which will be put before the disciplinary panel."

Andy Belfield, local secretary of the public services union Unison, said: "They were complaining about lack of support from their two bosses. If you suspended everyone who complained about their boss, there would be no one left at work. This tape would never be allowed in a court of law. It flies in the face of British justice."

Leader of mosque was fired after pilgrimage

By RUTH GLEDHILL

THE spiritual leader of a mosque is seeking £6,000 compensation for being sacked after making a seven-week pilgrimage to Mecca.

Amir Abdulla Khan was paid £520 a month from money donated by worshippers during Friday prayers at the Oxford Mosque Society, a predominantly Sunni organisation, for duties that included taking the five daily prayer sessions, teaching the Koran to children and conducting wedding ceremonies. But when Mr Khan returned from his pilgrimage in May last year, he was dismissed.

Mr Khan, 33, yesterday told an industrial tribunal at Reading, Berkshire, where he is claiming unfair dismissal, that he had fully briefed the mosque's Muslim elders that he would be making his first Haj, or pilgrimage.

Mahmud Khan Hasrat, former chairman of the society, said: "When we employ our imam we don't think he will take us to court."

The tribunal was asked to decide whether Mr Khan could be classed as an employee. Katharine Gollop, for the mosque, said that precedent meant that neither the imam nor any minister of religion was classified as an employee.

Mr Khan insisted he was an employee. "I knew if I was late I would get the sack. I am asking for fairness and what is due to me."

The hearing continues.

Canny Scots rival southern wealth

By CAROLINE MERRILL

LOTHIAN, in the central belt of Scotland, has joined the South East as one of the richest areas in Britain, according to a survey by a market research company.

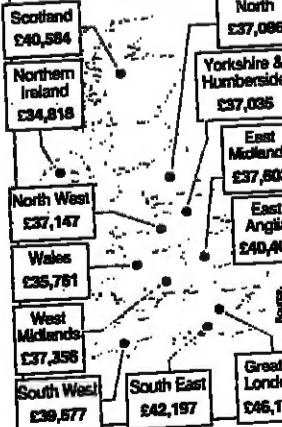
The average wealth in Lothian was £45,324, about £900 less than the average in the Greater London area. Other rich areas included Surrey, Hertfordshire and Oxfordshire. The survey by Datamonitor claimed that the average wealth per head in Britain has dropped by more than £6,000 in real terms over the last six years to £25,442.

The company puts the fall down to the drop in property prices since 1989. Wealth was judged by taking into account property, savings such as TESSAs, and investments including personal equity plans and pensions. Datamonitor said the Lothian figure was boosted by Edinburgh, a traditionally wealthy city. The region has also seen the growth of high-tech companies in areas such as Livingston, bringing in well-paid jobs.

The difference in wealth between the poorest area — mid-Glamorgan at £32,512 — and the richest — Greater London at £46,176 — was 42 per cent. Other poor areas included Gwent, south Yorkshire and Durham.

The survey claims: "While inflation has been kept relatively under control, property prices have dampened the

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effects of a strong economy, rising wages, and better savings and borrowing attitudes, and real wealth has still failed to catch up with 1992 levels."

According to *The Rich List* published by *The Sunday Times* earlier this week, 514 of the 1,000 wealthiest people in the UK lived in the South East, 83 lived in the North West, while 1 per cent lived in Wales and 1 per cent lived in Northern Ireland.

However, Datamonitor's analysis of wealth excluding property and other non-liquid assets such as pensions and life insurance policies found an increase in wealth over the last four years. The survey found that liquid assets per head had risen from £13,430 in 1992 to £16,647 in 1996, thanks to increased savings.

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Job cuts and fare rises forecast at new rail firms

By RICHARD DUCE
AND FRASER NELSON

JOB cuts and fare rises across much of the privatised railway industry were predicted in a damning report yesterday. A looming crisis was blamed on companies who bid too high to win their franchises and could need heavy subsidies to survive.

The report for the pressure group Save Our Railways said that five of the new private rail firms were now expected to make heavy losses. City analysts of the report wiped 50p off the morning share price for Frim

Rail, which runs three of the franchises. The shares later recovered enough to close about 10p down on the day. Frim said that the claims were an election stunt based on insufficient data.

The report by Tim Powell, a former transport studies director at accountants and management consultants Coopers & Lybrand, said that some firms would need to raise revenue or cut costs by as much as 20 per cent. Others were expected to make high profits because their franchise terms were "far too easy". South West Trains, which infuriated commuters by cutting services

after reducing its drivers, is on course for profits of up to £500 million.

Mr Powell, whose former employers advised the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising on privatisation, identified five companies under threat as Thameslink, Thames Trains, West Anglia and Great Northern, Cardiff Railways, and South Wales and West. The report, *The Prospects for the Franchised Railway*, said these could require £250 million to £1.5 billion in extra government subsidy. The most likely figure was said to be £750 million. Five other

lines were said to face difficulties — Chiltern, CrossCountry, Regional Railways North West, North London Railways and the Isle of Wight Island Line.

Eight were tipped to make a large profit — South West Trains, Great Western, Great North Eastern (formerly East Coast Main Line), Gatwick Express, Connex South Central, Midland Main Line, LTS (London Tilbury and Southend) Rail and ScotRail. Excluding ScotRail, their combined profit was expected to be £600 million to £1.93 billion.

Mr Powell accepted that passen-

gers would benefit from the fact that some fares are capped, but said: "Fare capping applies to about half of all fares. Some important fares are not capped at all and could increase considerably."

Keith Bill, national secretary of Save Our Railways, said: "This report is shocking news. There has been concern in the industry about the way some later franchises were let to bidders who were taking a gamble."

The report makes clear that Roger Salmon, when Franchising Director, had suggested that ab-

normally high profits should be recycled for the benefit of taxpayers and passengers. The Government rejected the proposal.

Rail companies dismissed the report's forecasts. The Thames Trains network between London, Oxford and Slough was said to face losing £97 million, and Thameslink, between Luton and Gatwick, was said to face losing £116 million. However, Martin Ballinger, managing director of Go-Ahead Group which runs both franchises, said the report was "absolute nonsense — if this was true, we would never have bid for the franchises. Both

railways are performing better than we expected."

The report said that the Prison franchises, West Anglia and Great Northern, Cardiff Railways, and South Wales and West would lose a total of £287 million by the end of their franchise terms. Frim said the report's calculations were made without information available only to the operators, and had reckoned without investment made before privatisation. Giles Fearnley, chief executive, said: "We have to view this as a predominantly political document released to coincide with the election campaign."

Feel-good herbal drinks 'could harm consumers' health'

HERBAL drinks are no more healthy than ordinary soft drinks, according to the Consumers' Association. While they often claim positive effects, some could damage your health.

A report published today in the association's magazine *Health Which?* says people in search of a pick-me-up would be better off with a cup of tea than herbal drinks, which can cost up to £2.35 a bottle.

In a survey of what it claims to be a very profitable and growing market, *Health Which?* says that "feel-good" claims appear on all the drinks assessed. "Not all the manufacturers we spoke to could back them up," the magazine says. "Under current legislation any claim is supposed to be correct and not misleading, but the level and quality of evidence needed to support a claim is not clearly laid down, which makes enforcement difficult."

The Consumers' Association has made complaints

A cup of tea rather than a herbal drink would make a better pick-me-up, says Health Which? Robin Young reports

against several brands to trading standards authorities and the Advertising Standards Authority. They include Gusto, a herbal drink claimed to "contribute to stamina and performance". *Health Which?* says that is tantamount to an illegal medicinal claim.

The association has also complained to the authority about Purdey's Gold High Energy, a brand for which the claim is: "The healthy and immediate way to feel revitalised... Formula of peppermint, herbs and vitamins with complex carbohydrate for a sustained energy boost." The brand is advertised as "bottled rejuvenation".

Health Which? says that experts found the drink to contain "a hefty slug of glucose syrup", the equivalent of

a Mars Bar or ten teaspoons of sugar. The herbs, including prickly ash and guarana, the makers claim to use were potentially toxic and the expert said he was unable to understand the evidence filed by the drink's makers in support of their claims.

A nutritionist told the Consumers' Association: "If it's sustained energy you want, go for a banana. If it's refreshment, water is healthier."

Other drinks are criticised for implying that they will improve health and wellbeing. The label of Amé lists herbs and says they "soothe and enhance" but experts said the herbs would only have the effects listed if they were taken regularly and at high levels.

Orchid Drinks, which makes Amé as well as Purdey's, refused to disclose the level of herbs in the drinks. A spokesman said: "We do not believe our drinks fall into the category of a herbal or health drink. We put the benefits of the herbs contained as a source of interest for our customers. We do not see the herbs as key ingredients."

Aqua Libra, another Orchid Drinks product, is said to "help the body to maintain its natural alkaline balance". *Health Which?* says the claim is "misleading and semi-medical". The magazine says that Orchid Drinks was unable to explain why people should need their alkaline levels balancing, or how the drink would achieve that.

The Aloe Juice in Aloe Ginseng could be a laxative, while Rio Amazon Guarana Breeze, was a "disturbing product" which could lead to a caffeine overdose if too much was drunk.

Health Which? says: "Adding herbs to a simple sugar or fruit drink seems to turn it into a mysterious, enervating concoction."



Saddling up: Sindi Johnston will swap her business suits for jeans when she joins her wrangler in Arizona

City slicker rides out of town to set up home on the range

By TIM JONES

UNTIL recently Sindi Johnston's idea of going west was a shopping trip to Harrods and lunch at an expensive restaurant. Now she is leaving her £45,000-a-year job and heading for the wide open spaces of Arizona to spend the rest of her life with a cowboy who earns £2 an hour.

She will give up her flat in Baker Street, London, trips to the theatre and dinner parties to share a room behind a barn with her wrangler.

She met Rex Christensen, 50, while on holiday at the Lazy K dude ranch near Tucson last summer and returned to marry him in February. They took their vows on horseback and were married by a preacher called Tipi who lives in a shack made from bottles.

Yesterday Mrs Christensen, 37, head of

a newspaper production department, described their first meeting: "He got off his horse and strode towards me. We just looked at each other. He was tall, his eyes were blue and sparkling, and something just happened that I can't explain. My heart missed a beat and I was hooked."

The couple shared dawn rides in the mountains and went dancing. Mr Christensen proposed over a meal of rocky mountain oysters, which are calves' testicles.

Mrs Christensen said: "I can't wait to get out of the rat-race and lead a simpler life. The pace of life will be slow but there will be none of the long faces you see on the Tube or in traffic jams."

"I realise I am going from rich town girl to poor country girl because all Rex owns is a saddle and a truck. But he has never worried about where the next

dollar is coming from: and from now on, neither will I."

Mr Christensen, who ran away from school at 14 to join a rodeo, is confident that the marriage will last. "Sindi has more book learning than me but I'm educated in a backwoods way. She will fit in fine once I have taught her to ride, hunt and fish."

Chris Symington, a director of the company which organised Mrs Christensen's trip, said that ranch holidays were popular with single women. Another of her customers, in her twenties, is now living with the fifty-something manager of a dude ranch. Ms Symington said: "This appeals to women partly because they are interested in riding and know that on the ranch they will be totally safe. But there is no denying that some of them may dream of romance."

Man drove at Asians in racist assault

A restaurant manager who drove his car on to a pavement at a group of Asians in a racially motivated attack has been ordered to serve 100 hours community service and 18 months probation by Bristol Crown Court. Matthew Kimber, 22, of Walmore Common, Gloucestershire, was banned from driving for 12 months and ordered to pay £500 compensation to Moumou Ali who was injured in the incident in Cheltenham last April. Kimber admitted dangerous driving and assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

Transatlantic call

A message in a bottle thrown into the sea off the east coast of Scotland by a young girl has turned up two years later in California. The note has led to a friendship between Sommer Cheyne, 10, and the bottle's finder, a young mother from San Diego.

CS sprays tested

Strathclyde and Tayside police forces are to test CS sprays in response to an increase in the number of assaults on officers. William Spence, Chief Constable of Tayside, said that many officers "without much stature" had to deal with very strong individuals.

Victim fined

A shopkeeper who has suffered three armed robberies and five burglaries has been fined £100 by Basingstoke magistrates for having a shotgun without a licence. Julian Perkins, 52, of Brambridge, Hampshire, said: "Crime has been made to pay."

Scots reel home

A thriller set in Glasgow and shown at film festivals all over the world has finally found a distributor to release it at home. *The Near Room*, shot in 1995, opens in 15 cinemas throughout Scotland on Friday through Metrodome Distribution.

Mary Rose raid

A drinking vessel dredged up from the site of Henry VIII's sunken flagship, *The Mary Rose*, has been stolen. The stoneware jug, worth about £5,000, was taken by raiders who forced open an exhibit case at the Southsea Castle Museum in Portsmouth.

Canary to rescue

A canary averted a possible disaster by falling off its perch. The Howes family, of Scarborough, North Yorkshire, failed to notice a gas leak after having a new fire fitted, until their pet alerted them by collapsing.

Why a tot before bedtime can become a weighty matter

THE drunkard's "false dawn" — the sleeplessness that overtakes those who consumed too much alcohol the night before and who then wake, sweaty, after only a few, often noisy, hours of heavy sleep — is well known.

Equally familiar is the nightmare: a glass of something alcoholic, often whisky, just before going to bed so that the day's worries are forgotten and sleep becomes possible. The nightmare is an admirable

formula for beating one type of insomnia, but the detail needs careful consideration. The size of the tot should be large enough to induce relaxation, but not so generous that it disturbs the natural sleep rhythm.

The journal *Australian Doctor* and the British medical magazine *Monitor* have recently carried reports of a problem that can affect some people if their nightcap is too large. A drink that is not so



MEDICAL BRIEFING

heavy that it produces a false dawn can still be large enough to bring about a light sleep in the second half of the night. This sleep pattern may be the cause of the previously inexplicable weight gain no-

ticed by some nightcappers. To understand why people whose nightcaps were too big were putting on weight, researchers studied people who habitually have fewer than six hours' sleep a night. They

found that those who have a short night also have a higher calorie intake.

Some of these additional calories were burnt off by the activities they undertook during the extra time they had available at night, but others only served to increase the body's fat reserves.

The doctors found that people who regularly had a short night tend to have a better appetite for breakfast and that their hearty breakfast

counted for much of the increase in their daily calorie intake.

It is suggested that those people whose nightcap is so heavy that it produces light sleep in the second half of the night share the problems of those who persistently had fewer than six hours' sleep a night, and that they, too, have a big breakfast which leads to them putting on weight.

Breakfast poses quite a different problem for those who

have drunk so much the previous evening that they have had a false dawn. These people probably will have no appetite at all, although in order to counteract the hypoglycaemia the alcohol has produced they need a good breakfast of orange juice, porridge and some form of protein.

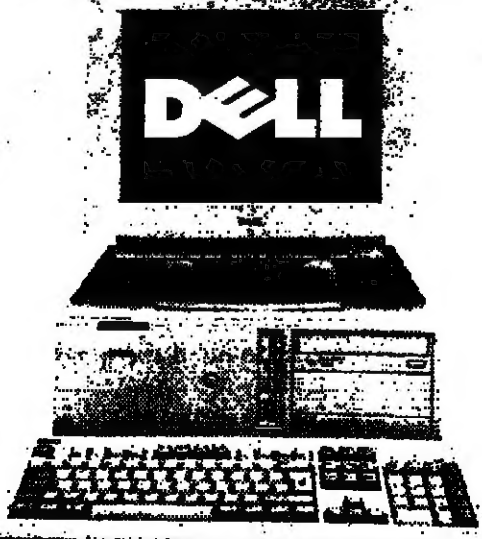
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ELECTION 97



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Reluctant 'Mr Clean' heeds the call

IT'S a dirty job but someone has got to do it. That, roughly, was the word yesterday from Martin Bell, the BBC war correspondent, as he explained why he had reluctantly allowed himself to be talked into taking on Neil Hamilton MP and slugging the sleaze from Tatton.

Diffident and pained, the hero of Sarajevo, was aghast at the responsibility that he said had suddenly been thrust upon him, but there came a moment when you had to answer the call of duty. "I thought a long time ago that there was something amiss in this country," he said. "Sometimes we have to get off our backsides and help people."

If the Labour and Liberal Democrat candidates formally make way for him and if Mr Hamilton is chosen tonight as Tatton's candidate, then Mr Bell will present himself as an independent "anti-corruption" candidate. He believed Mr Hamilton would desist, in which case "I am the shortest-lived political candidate with the shortest-lived political career you will ever see and by Wednesday morning it will all be over," he said. "If Hamilton



The hero of Sarajevo is bound for Cheshire. Charles Bremner waves the man in the white suit off on his purgative political mission

chooses to withdraw that takes the S-word out of the campaign," said the BBC man, who sported the "lucky" cream suit that is his television trademark. If the former minister persisted, then Mr Bell would fight to win and would take his seat in parliament unbehind to any party, he said. He said he disliked the S-word, preferring to talk about corruption. On that account he felt himself to be squeaky clean. Only once had his expenses been challenged in 35 years with the BBC and that was a query last November over an Indian taxi receipt.

Mr Bell, 58, and possessor of the soft clipped tones of an earlier generation, described his accidental decision to cross the lines between celebrity journalism and politics at a

press conference in Westminster. Colleagues were unsure whether they were grilling a politician or ribbing a fellow hack. Taking the spotlight was an unnerving experience which he had never sought. "I'm scared to death," said Mr Bell, who was wounded in Sarajevo in 1992 and has spent 17 of the past 20 years abroad. "I would much rather run the trenches of Dobrinja, run snipers alley in my armoured vehicle Miss Piggy than this," he said. "This is one of the strangest things that has ever happened to me."

The reporter, who makes no secret of his disaffection with the BBC, said he had just returned from a trip to New York for a documentary on the United Nations chief when Tom Stoddart, the photographer and partner to Kate Hoey, the Labour MP, pressed him to stand as Tatton's "Mr Clean". After further pressure from "high" in the Labour and Liberal Democrat parties he accepted.

The Bell campaign would take the high road, avoiding personal attacks on Mr Hamilton, but a generalised offensive against corruption, said the journalist who described himself last year as "a founder member of the get-something-done club".

Mr Bell's self-effacement was clearly struggling with the adrenalin that comes from the power game. As much as he insisted that he hated the experience, there was no disguising the pride when he quoted a poll on his candidacy in Tatton by the *Evening Standard*. "It said Hamilton 29, Bell 71."

Colleagues have not been unduly surprised by Mr Bell's leap into politics. A veteran of a dozen wars, he had "got religion", as one put it, in his long stint in Bosnia and had felt unappreciated after his return last year.

Yesterday, he spoke of his unrequited love affair with the BBC, where he began work as a news assistant in Norwich in 1962. "Up to two days ago I was cruising along towards the twilight of my career in the BBC and I had no idea this



Martin Bell during the press conference at the Institute of Civil Engineers in London where he announced his candidacy yesterday

was going to happen," he said. If the political career ended, he would go back to the BBC.

Fellow journalists also vouched for the honesty of Mr Bell yesterday as above reproach, and BBC sources confirm that he had never once come under suspicion, despite working as one of an elite band of foreign correspondents notorious for "creative" expenses claims.

Mr Bell acknowledges, however, that many television reporters have made large sums through sharp practice with expenses claims.

"But those days are gone forever. As it happens I did live through them, without taking material advantage of them... It seemed a sad obsession."

Confronted yesterday by a pack of reporters, Mr Bell said he knew Conservative Central Office would be scrutinising his past for signs of wrongdoing.

"I have looked at my cupboard and I can't think of a damn thing," he insisted.

After pledging to make available his bank accounts and tax returns to anyone who requested them, he disclosed that he had just £6,500 in the

bank. Of the £11,000 he received last week from the paperback sales of his book, *In Harm's Way*, he had spent £8,000 on a secondhand car.

David McNeill, a BBC radio news presenter who worked with him in Washington, described him as a "moral man" who "played everything with a straight bat".

However, Mr Bell admits that his private life has been

less successful. Divorced twice, he says he is a "hopeless romantic but I am also totally impossible to live with".

He has two daughters, Melissa, 24, and Catherine, 22, from his first marriage to French-born Nelly (Helene) Gourdon in 1971. The marriage ended in 1980 but the two remain close. Mr Bell now lives in the former family home in Hampstead Garden

Suburb with Catherine, who also studies in the US.

His second marriage, to NBC reporter Rebecca Sobel in 1985, broke down over her resentment at the amount of time he spent with his daughters. He described it as "four years of pure disaster."

The story goes that Mr Bell once offered accommodation to an attractive and famous television correspondent and,

in the darkness, she asked in a timid voice: "Martin, you're not going to jump my bones, are you?"

He replied gallantly: "No. I am not insensitive to your charms and don't want to seem indifferent to them but I have absolutely no intention of jumping your bones."

Additional reporting by Stephen Farrell, Alexandra Frean and Joanna Bale

MATTHEW PARRIS

I'D give Martin Bell a week until his character is torn to shreds. This is not because there is any defect in Mr Bell's character but because no reputation, however untarnished, is untarnishable. If St Francis of Assisi were to stand for Tatton, he would find himself under press suspicion within days.

Is there nobody in Mr Bell's valiant career who is prepared to speak ill of him? If there is, the press and the Tories will seek them out. After sustained media attention, Snow White's reputation would drift - why, after all, the uncharacteristic spring in Grumpy's step? Put Max Clifford on the case of Big Ears, and bang go Noddy's chances of political stardom. Every Batman has a Robin in his closet.

Whatever interest this candidate may arouse, Britain's media professionals will not quite, in their hearts, approve. Some will be a little jealous, others, more old-fashioned, may think it unprofessional to step over the unstated line between reporting the news and



Noddy: not even he would be unscathed

making it. Most, I suspect, will derive schoolboy glee from watching a candidate whose whole platform must consist in an implicit claim to personal virtue, stumble.

As for the voters of Tatton (mostly Tory) many will see a BBC candidate as being not above politics, but of the covert Left. I'd place a small bet on Hamilton winning. ☐ Ladbrokes made Hamilton the 1-5 favourite, with Bell at 3-1 against.

Media 'dirty tricks' strengthen resolve of Tatton high command

BY ANDREW PIERCE, RUSSELL JENKINS AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

MARTIN BELL's decision to stand as an anti-sleaze candidate has made the press Tories of Tatton keener than ever to adopt Neil Hamilton.

The *Times* yesterday asked members of the management committee at the Conservative association whether Mr Hamilton should fight on, did they need a secret ballot and what they thought of Martin Bell?

As the constituency prepares for tonight's formal meeting to adopt the MP, only one out of ten leading figures was anti-Hamilton.

Jan Verney, president of the constituency association, said: "Neil Hamilton should fight on. The man is innocent... I suspect that somebody will call for a secret ballot at the meeting."

"I suppose Martin Bell will get a few votes but it's a bit rich, isn't it? We know basically this is a battle between the media and Neil Hamilton and one of you puts up."

Peter Kay, vice-president, said: "We think Neil Hamilton has been an excellent constituency MP. It is not normal to hold a secret ballot at an adoption meeting. It is to approve him and I do not believe there is any need for it. "I honestly don't know anything about Martin Bell."

Tony Martin, the constituency treasurer, who has organised an anti-Hamilton campaign, said: "Neil Hamilton shouldn't fight on. He has

lost the confidence of the electorate."

"I have had 20 phone calls this morning from people who were prepared to support me but are not going to now. Martin Bell is seen as a Lib-Lab candidate. There is a siege mentality inside the association and this considerably strengthens their resolve."

"If we are going to move it at all, a secret ballot is the only way we will."

Sue Kipling, area vice-chairman for Knutsford, said: "I support Neil Hamilton completely. We don't normally

have a secret ballot but there is provision if people require it. Martin Bell is a correspondent. I believe Neil Hamilton should be the MP."

Heather Craig, a Knutsford town councillor, said: "We are 110 per cent behind Neil... These people who are calling for a secret ballot are chicken-livered. They should stand up and be counted."

"I have my own feelings about Martin Bell. They are private."

Barbara Armitage, who represents Alderley Edge on the management committee,

TATTON CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

Hundreds of Tatton Conservative Association's 1,500 members will decide Neil Hamilton's political fate tonight when they pack into a small hall behind a public house in Chelford, Cheshire. The motion to adopt Mr Hamilton is item 2 on the agenda and comes before the formal suspension of the association to conform with electoral law, an address from the candidate and a briefing on the campaign battle lines. The adoption can be changed from a simple show of hands into a secret ballot in two ways. It is within the gift of the constituency president, Jan Verney, to

announce that a secret ballot will take place. Alternatively a member can propose a secret ballot, which will require a second order and the support of a third of the audience. Ballot papers have been prepared for such a call and party agents from neighbouring constituencies are standing by to act as tellers. All fully paid up members registered with the association may attend and vote but they will have to have been members for at least 28 days to qualify. Peter McDowell, the party agent, said: "The motion is put to the meeting and it either stands or falls."

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British Midland

EU chiefs plan to embrace Labour at Maastricht

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS accused European leaders yesterday of preparing a special "sell-out summit" in Maastricht if Labour wins the election.

The Dutch presidency is planning a meeting next month to raise any issues that need to be considered before the inter-governmental conference in Amsterdam in June.

But the Tories claimed that they had not been invited to a May summit and argued it was being held only because European chiefs hoped that Labour would sign up to further concessions on social and

employment conditions. Officials attending a two-day European Union meeting in Noordwijk, Holland, suggested that the May gathering would not be held if the Tories retained power. "We know their views already," said one official.

Labour confirmed that it had been contacted about the summit but had rejected the idea on the grounds that there was no need to have one. "We will spell out our position at the Amsterdam summit in June," a spokesman for Tony

Blair, the Labour leader, said. But David Davis, the Foreign Office Minister, said the obvious purpose of the summit would be to clear the path for the surrender of British sovereignty. "Europe is preparing a tailor-made, sell-out summit for new Labour," he stated. "It comes as no surprise that European Socialist leaders would rejoice at the prospect of a Labour victory. We have known for some time that Labour would make six surrenders of sovereignty in under six weeks. The damage to Britain would be irrevocable."

EU sources later confirmed that

if a meeting had to be held it would be convened in the second half of next month, after a British election. They claimed that they had approached both the Labour and the Tory parties about possible dates. British ministers later still denied any knowledge of the proposed mini-summit.

Mr Davis insisted that Labour would sign up to a number of new directives under the Social Chapter and the Employment Chapter which would undermine labour flexibility in Britain. Other ministers also accused Brussels of deliberately delaying publication of its

social action plan till after the election. The Tories produced yesterday a shopping list from Labour MEPs which they suspected would be adopted by the European Commission. Top of the list is equality of treatment for part-time workers, a proposal that Tony Blair has only recently dropped from Labour policy. Other demands would lower the retirement age and make it more difficult for employers to sack workers.

Yesterday, the Tories also tried to exploit what they saw as a significant difference between Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, and

Robin Cook over Labour's stance on a single currency.

On Sunday Mr Cook, the shadow foreign secretary, tried to outflank the Government by virtually ruling out a single currency in the lifetime of a Labour parliament. He said: "It is very difficult to see a government that has taken a decision that Britain wasn't ready in 1999, coming to the decision that it would be ready the next year or the year after that."

Mr Brown claimed yesterday that there had been no hardening of policy. "The policy is completely unchanged. What he's saying is

that if it is postponed in 1999 and there is a chance that all countries in Europe, the principal partners will agree to postpone it, then it might be unlikely the next year and the next year."

Senior Tory sources privately expressed concern that Labour had successfully outflanked them by appearing to toughen up their position, but suggested it was too late for John Major to shift in the same direction. "He has been so firm on the 'wait and see' policy that it would now look ridiculous if he changed it," said one senior Eurosceptic.

Unionists seek deal on joint candidacy

By NICHOLAS WATT
CHIEF IRELAND
CORRESPONDENT

THE two main Unionist parties met last night in the hope of agreeing on joint candidates in two marginal seats. Failure to agree could clear the way for Sinn Féin victories.

With just over a week until nominations close, the Ulster Unionists (UUP) and Democratic Unionists (DUP) are still at loggerheads over West Tyrone and North Belfast.

Speaking earlier, at the launch of the DUP manifesto, the Rev Ian Paisley, the party leader, said that he held out little hope of reaching agreement with David Trimble, leader of the UUP.

Despite intensive talks in recent weeks, the UUP and DUP have failed to reach agreement on the two seats because of the extremely poor relations between the leaders and between party workers on the ground. Mr Paisley and Mr Trimble can barely tolerate the sight of each other and have clashed repeatedly at the Stormont talks.

The DUP says that it will contest the new seat of West Tyrone because its opponents reneged on a deal worked out for the election to the Northern Ireland Forum last May. Under that the DUP agreed not to contest the seat in the general election if the UUP beat it in the forum election.

Although the UUP won 17.9 per cent of the vote to 16.43 per cent for the DUP, Mr Paisley called off the deal after Willie Thompson of the UUP decided not to contest the forum election. Mr Thompson is now intending to stand for the UUP in the general election.

If they fail to agree on West Tyrone and two Unionists stand, the seat will go to either the SDLP or Sinn Féin, who respectively won 28.4 per cent and 28.1 per cent of the vote last May. Sinn Féin is already expected to recapture West Belfast and is a strong contender for Mid-Ulster.



Mr Soames plumping for a hearty meal in a York fish restaurant yesterday: "It is important to have a good lunch, it makes you feel a lot better"

Fish and chips fend off Yorkshire battering

Damian Whitworth witnesses Nicholas Soames's prodigious appetite for weighty issues

NICHOLAS SOAMES yesterday outlined a hitherto underexplored strategy for Tory success: eat to win. The rallying cry was sounded when he arrived to lend heavy-weight ministerial support to Simon Mallett, the Conservative candidate in the Labour marginal seat of York.

Any politician visiting the

area is sensible to boast that a plate of the county's traditional fish and chips is the perfect way to round off a hard day's campaigning. Mr Soames advocated the dish as the perfect way to start a session of campaigning.

At noon, as the fryers at Wackers restaurant were starting to sizzle, he was smacking his lips in anticipation. After travelling up from Sussex, he had a long slog ahead and an Armed Forces minister, as every schoolchild knows, marches on his stomach.

He eyed Mr Mallett, a mere slip of a candidate, with concern. "He's a thin thing, needs feeding up," he declared. "I burn it off," protested Mr Mallett. "I eat more to compensate," retorted Mr Soames, tucking into the £6.49

Wackers Special large had-dock and chips with relish.

As befitted a former Second Lieutenant in the 11th Hussars, Mr Soames explained how to run a campaign with military efficiency. "One needs to take care. It requires a great deal of forward planning. And without showing off, I can say you have to work bloody hard."

He moved on to the finer details of this approach: "I'm a big breakfast man." Unfortunately, with yesterday's early start, a tactical decision had been taken to eat on the move. "I could only manage a bacon sandwich on Haywards Heath station," he said glumly.

The next stage was critical, he added. "If you have taken a morale bath in the morning, it is important to have a good

lunch, it makes you feel a lot better." Once a decision to have lunch had been taken, other split-second judgments had to be made. What to eat?

"Roast beef and Yorkshire pudding is, of course, the best lunch," said Mr Soames. "But that would be overdoing it on a one-hour stop. In my view, you can't have a better lunch than fish and chips."

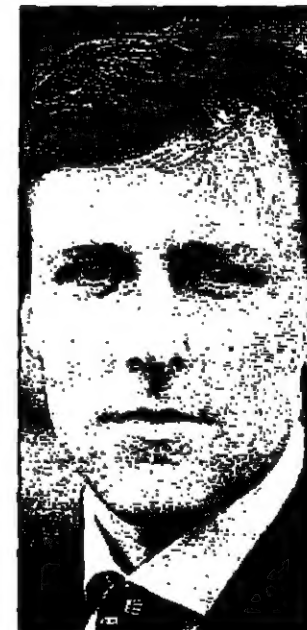
Additional postprandial fortification should be sought in the pub. "I went campaigning in my own constituency on Saturday and ended up with a Coldstream guardsman drinking pints of Guinness. You can't have a better end to your morning."

"I want to enjoy our general election. We are all being told that it is all terribly serious. I want to enjoy and celebrate it." Photographers gathered to

take pictures of the demolition in progress. "All they want are pictures of me with my mouth open," the minister said, roaring with laughter. "I'm prepared to make a fool of myself for the party."

Lunch over, Mr Soames charged through the streets of York like a Chieftain tank. He placed a bet on the Grand National - "My brother-in-law has a helicopter and we were going to try and fly over to Aintree this afternoon, but the time didn't work" - and examined the wares of a knicker shop.

Then it was time to roll on to the next constituency, the next engagement and afternoon tea and supper, leaving Mr Mallett to reflect: "I'm probably half his weight, but a few years in Parliament and I'll put some on."



Mallett: the thin man "needs feeding up"

Tactical voters are expelled

Ten members of Lewes Labour Party have been expelled for backing tactical voting for the Liberal Democrats in a letter to a local newspaper. The Rathbone won the East Sussex seat for the Tories in the last vote with a 12,000 lead over the Liberal Democrats and nearly 30,000 votes ahead of Labour. In the Sheffield Hallam seat, a letter to voters from the Liberal Democrats urging Labour supporters to vote tactically has provoked a party row.

Sinking feeling

John Major's show of faith with the Grand National meant disappointment for Hampton School, southwest London, which called in pupils on holiday to meet him. The change of plans dashed a photo-call with teenage rowers to publicise the assisted places scheme.

Crime initiative

The Liberal Democrats will today unveil plans for young "city guards" to combat crime. Jobless school-leavers will be given training and paid a basic wage to remove graffiti, patrol unmanned bus and train stations and help vulnerable people to get home at night.

MP tipped

Mike Watson, MP for Glasgow Central for the past eight years, whose constituency has disappeared in boundary changes, is being tipped as the Labour candidate for Kilmarnock and Loudoun. Willie McKelvey, the sitting MP, is not standing after suffering a minor stroke.

Labour MP quits

Stuart Randall, 58, Labour MP for Hull West and Hessle for 14 years, stood down yesterday saying that he wanted to spend more time with his family. Officials will hold an emergency meeting later this week to draw up a shortlist of possible candidates.

Not a hoot

The campaign buses of Paddy Ashdown and John Major passed within hooting distance of each other at Manchester Airport. The Lib Dem vehicle - known as the "Paddy Wagon" - passed by without so much as a single insult from either bus.

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Golden oldies turn their attention to more exciting campaign of 1906

It is difficult to find much excitement in this still-born election so determined are the two main parties to dance around each other dressed in identical clothes; thus it comes as an odd pleasure to see that three times a week BBC television's *Breakfast News* is bringing together what Sir Robin Day described yesterday as three "political golden oldies" to chew the fat.

The Lords Jenkins of Hillhead and Tebbit are joined by Roy Hattersley, who is in that awkward adolescent period of political life when he is no longer a member of the House of Commons but has yet to be elevated to the House

of Lords. To that extent he is the only one of the three with a stake in this general election, for he needs to put only one word out of place and his engine may be withheld from him.

If anyone with long memories had dozed off in front of the television set late on Sunday and woken with a start yesterday morning to see our musketeers arguing the toss, they might well have concluded from one of those sleeping sicknesses where patients lie in a coma while whole decades pass by.

In fact, however, this short 20 minutes of television turned out to be one of the most honest and well informed of any of the many hours of election TV broadcasting I have endured.

This amiable trio and their once irascible interviewer look like something out of the later episodes of *Star Trek* much craggier and wrinkled than we remember them from their prime but still going through the motions. And their message was clear: this is an election, Robin, but not as we know it. This is not just a matter of today's politics not being as lively as those in the good old days; something has



TV WATCH
NICHOLAS WAPSHOTT

plainly happened to make this election a bore.

If Roy Jenkins is the Captain Mainwaring of this *Dad's Army*, then Tebbit is the spiv Walker and Hattersley old Godfrey. And the captain had a couple of suggestions why this election is so dull. First, it was plain that John Major's decision to have a six-and-a-half-week election campaign was foolhardy. Secondly, this was the first election since 1983 in which the result was a foregone conclusion after the first 20 seconds, "rather like the Oxford and Cambridge boat race".

Norman Tebbit, who can

rarely resist scoring a party point, said that once the leading boat in the race sank. And Jenkins, remembering no doubt his short-lived bid to become Prime Minister in 1983, replied wistfully: "And once they both sank."

Sir Robin said that he had read both manifestos and they were so similar that he had to remind himself which one he was reading. Were the two parties now too similar? Hattersley thought there was too little ideological difference between the parties and it was a terrible pity. Tebbit thought that it was all due to "the work of Margaret Thatcher" who had left so little to argue about.

And before we knew where we were, we were discussing the 1906 general election and Lord Jenkins was wagging his finger at Roy Hattersley and telling him not to forget that 30 years ago he had established his reputation as a biographer of Asquith and that "the view that Asquith was more radical than Campbell-Bannerman is an extremely interesting and exciting view, if I may say so."

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Genial don gives Britain a lecture on lone survival

Joe Joseph takes notes from the founder of the UK Independence Party

AS ALAN SKED explained rather jovially at the launch of his UK Independence Party manifesto yesterday: "Euro-scepticism doesn't begin to characterise my view on the European Union. We want out!" To Dr Sked, merely sceptic folk like Bill Cash and Sir Teddy Taylor are nesters in the bosom of Brussels.

So what would follow withdrawal from the EU? Easy: the UKIP proposes a free-trade agreement with Europe which would leave Britain £19 billion better off. The money would be spent on a better National Health Service, stronger Nato-based defences, reduced public debt and higher income tax thresholds. And food would get cheaper since we would be paying world rather than EU-biased prices.

It is all so logical that Dr Sked, a London School of Economics don and successful author who confesses that "I started as a gung-ho

Liberal federalist, but the more I read about it, it seemed to be absolute madness" — cannot fully understand why his party is not heading for a landslide on May 1.

"Britain within a year may no longer be an independent country," claims Dr Sked, which is why his party (which has fewer than 16,000 members) is putting up at least 200 candidates on May 1. "We're confident. We're dynamic again."

"Why do we have to be shackled to Europe? Why should we become a backwater of a continental super-state? Of course, when you put it like that, Dr Sked ...

The Glaswegian academic, who has written a Penguin history of modern Britain and is now writing the Penguin history of postwar Europe, thinks it possible that his party might even win three or four seats on May 1.

But if it does not, he will not be giving up. Why not?

Because the UKIP "is not a 'here today, gone tomorrow' party. We'll be around for as long as it takes to win the UK's freedom from the European Union. We believe that within ten years, Britain will be out of Europe. The costs will be so enormous of going into a single currency."

So he's not too keen on economic and monetary union, then?

"It's an international suicide pact," he says straight away, without tip-toeing through any shades of grey. "And the alternative to suicide is not to commit suicide. You don't have to become a lion tamer or a ballet dancer. You just don't have to commit suicide." See? It's all incredibly logical.

Dr Sked clearly enjoys politics — enjoys it so much that even joining the Liberal Party as a 14-year-old ("My hero was Jo Grimond") did not disillusion him irrevocably. He has the winning manner

of the genial don. He also has the smooth tongue of the lecturer who has marshalled his case in a way that makes it seem not only the most obvious analysis of a subject, but the only one.

The UK Independence Party is convinced that it has a firmer base of support than its direct rival, the Referendum Party. Sniping at its billion-saire leader, Sir James Goldsmith, Dr Sked said: "We have a democracy inside our party — it isn't about one chief with his cheque book."

But realistically, Dr Sked knows that his 3½-year-old party's parliamentary muscle after the election will be more in the Kenneth Williams league than in the Mike Tyson bracket, but there will still be work for the UKIP to do. Certainly there will be important pots for it to stir.

"We believe the Conservative Party will enter into a civil war. It is going to be a spectator blood sport. They



Alan Sked displaying his party logo yesterday. "Our role will be as a catalyst in this great period of flux"

will be split down the middle on the issue of Europe, and the Labour Party will come under severe strain.

"Our role in all this," he says, reining in his mischievous grin, "will be as a

catalyst in this great period of flux. We expect MPs to come over to us during that period." Some critics call the party parochial, even nationalistic. Tosh. "We are not a party of little Englanders," he bridges.

"We have a global outlook. Britain is not a post-imperial pimple on the map, it is the fifth largest economy in the world. We believe we could be a world-beater again if we had £19 billion extra to spend."

"So far we have had a dummy election. The voters have been cast in the role of dummies. We have had no debate on Europe; it should be the fundamental issue of the day."

SNP lays down terms for a 'velvet divorce'

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH AND MAGNUS LINKLATER

THE Scottish National Party issued its manifesto yesterday, promising lower income tax, 100,000 new jobs, reduced VAT on fuel, a cold-climate allowance and higher old-age pensions.

The Tories said the proposals would reduce Scotland to the status of a Third World country and Labour said the figures did not add up.

The 30-page SNP manifesto, *Yes We Can Win the Best for Scotland*, proposes spending an extra £6 billion in the first four years after a "velvet divorce" from England while raising taxes by only £80 million. The surplus is to be financed by Scotland's oil and gas revenues presently incorporated into the British Exchequer.

Key SNP tax pledges include: lowering the basic rate of income tax to 15p and expanding the tax ceiling for the standard rate from £26,100 to £30,015; taking 62p off a bottle of spirits and cutting VAT on fuel to 5 per cent.

Other proposals include: allowing all 16-year-olds the vote; introducing a minimum wage equivalent to half median male earnings of about £4 an hour; increasing child benefit to £12.50 a week and restoring benefits to 16 and 17-year-olds.

A package of social measures for the elderly include increasing state pensions by £3 a week for single people and £5 a week for married couples. There would also be a cold-climate allowance of £9.20 a week for pensioners.

To raise money the SNP would increase tax on tobacco by 34p on a packet of cigarettes. The surplus to fund the spending would come largely from oil and gas revenues. Quoting a Treasury estimate, Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, said that Scotland had financed London to the tune of £27 billion since 1979.

He said Scotland's oil and gas surplus for the next five years would be £12.5 billion and he committed the country to repaying £6.6 billion of the

SNP MANIFESTO

The SNP manifesto promises to:

- ☐ Create 100,000 jobs
- ☐ Introduce a national minimum wage at half median male earnings
- ☐ Endorse the Social Chapter
- ☐ Drop the starting rate of tax to 15p; introduce top rate at £30,000
- ☐ Cut the standard rate of corporation tax from 33 to 30 per cent
- ☐ Increase child benefit to £12.50 a week for each child and restore benefits to 16 and 17-year-olds
- ☐ Increase the state pension by £3 a week for individuals and £5 a week for couples
- ☐ Introduce a flat-rate cold-climate allowance of £9.20 for all pensioners benefit claimants to help with winter heating bills
- ☐ Provide an extra £35 million for the National Health Service in Scotland
- ☐ End nuclear reprocessing at Dounreay
- ☐ Set up Scottish Armed Forces

national debt that it would inherit in the first four years of independence. He insisted that the manifesto was fully costed and would work.

Henry McLeish, Labour's Scottish co-ordinator, said: "This is the same old nonsense. They're trying to con the Scottish people by spraying around spending commitments and tax cuts. But their figures don't add up."

Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, accused the SNP of living "in an economic fantasy". He said: "By the SNP's own accounting, their public spending plans would mean an increase of £5.5 billion in the first four years of separation. That does not take account of 68 further spending commitments they have made but not costed."

ON THE STUMP

I think it's going to be the shortest career in British political history. Martin Bell assessing his prospects in Tatton

I know Martin Bell well from many visits to Sarajevo and elsewhere. He is a man of the highest integrity and commands overwhelming respect. Paddy Ashdown at Lib Dem press conference

He has a flaming cheek. Neil Hamilton's wife, Christine, on Martin Bell

Neil is standing up for what he believes in. Bill Roache (Ken Barlow in *Coronation Street*) giving Mr Hamilton his backing

If people turn away from the hysterical soap opera of this election and look at the reality, think of their family finances, think of their jobs, think of jobs for their children they should be voting Conservative. Kenneth Clarke on walkabout in Basildon

We are prepared to sell off public assets where they are no longer of use to the country. Gordon Brown on Radio 4's *Today*

We will get nowhere without toughness of thought and toughness of action. Tony Blair to City businessmen

We are not a party of little Englanders. We have a global outlook. Britain is not a post-imperial pimple on the map. Alan Sked, leader of the UK Independence Party, launching his party's manifesto

Because she would be away on missions a great deal. The Tory MP Peter Bottomley explaining why he would like to see Lady Olga Maitland made Foreign Secretary

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Blair promises to follow economic 'third way'

Uneasy businessmen received the Labour leader's final conversion to privatisation with a mixture of warmth and scepticism, write Jill Sherman and James Landale

TONY BLAIR completed Labour's conversion to privatisation yesterday by saying that the party would favour private enterprise over the public sector.

"What counts is what works," he told businessmen at London's Corn Exchange. In an astonishing statement from a Labour leader, Mr Blair said that there should be no dogmatic belief that the public sector was better.

"Where there is no overriding reason for preferring the public provision of goods and services, particularly where those services operate in a competitive market, then the presumption should be that economic activity is best left to the private sector with market forces being fully encouraged to operate," Mr Blair said.

"You keep what works, you change what doesn't. What counts is not simply an absence of ideology. We can have ideas and a sense of obligation and sense of compassion without diminishing the desire for an efficient market economy."

The Labour leader also said that there would be no return to "beer and sandwiches at No 10" and no going back on the party's decision to ditch its Clause 4 commitment to wholesale nationalisation. Instead he spelt out a "third way" between state control and privatisation to end the Tories' roller-coaster econ-

omy. One of his first acts as Labour leader had been to rewrite Clause 4 of the party's constitution to take account of the way the economic argument had moved on, he said. Labour now carefully balanced its commitment to social justice with a commitment to a strong enterprising private sector.

"We are not in the business of pressing the rewind button, of reversing these reforms. There should be no dogmatic belief that the private sector should do everything or that the public sector should do everything. It is the public interest that it is important. As we have made clear in our manifesto, what counts is what works."

Mr Blair said that it was vital to build a new partnership with business, but Labour would not be "picking winners" in the marketplace. "This is no rehash of 1960s corporatism. There will be no national plans, no grandiose industrial strategies."

"We have no proposals to return to tripartite institutions or beer and sandwiches at No 10. These are things we are not going to do." The party's aim was to build a partnership with business that was broader and deeper than any post-war Government has contemplated in Britain.

"Gone are the days when Labour represented one side of industry and business



Tony Blair having coffee in the garden of the 82W offices yesterday. He said there would be no return to "beer and sandwiches" with the unions

found itself automatically on the other."

Under his third-way strategy the party would preserve flexible labour markets but ensure basic minimum standards at work and a workforce well equipped to survive in the new market place.

He emphasised the importance of high quality education. "Education and economic growth go hand in

hand, the one making the other possible."

Mr Blair also spoke of the need to get public spending and public borrowing under tight control. Since John Major had moved to the Treasury in 1989, the national debt had doubled. "This is a 'Rake's Progress' which we must now stop. We must hit and maintain tough limits into the indefinite future."

Mr Blair was given a warm welcome by his business audience. Danny Bernstein, managing director of Monarch Airlines, was "very positive" about Mr Blair, saying: "I don't think he has convinced the entire business community, but there are more coming round to his way of thinking. It may be that they just think he is going to win and so they had better come along and listen to what he has to say."

Stephen Kalman, director of the British Land Company, which hosted the event, said: "We are instinctively not Labour men. His performance is extremely well done. But we await events to see how his message is getting across. Personally, it is difficult to see. But we were interested to hear what he had to say."

The acceptable face of nothing in particular

Kenneth Clarke joked in an interview the other day that the Major government had been "Thatcherism with a human face". But would a Blair government be much different?

Tony Blair has embraced most of the key features of the Thatcher era: reform of trade union laws, a tight fiscal and monetary policy and, now, privatisation. It was not so much that what he said yesterday in the City represented a big shift of policy — since little was new — as the starkness and bluntness with which he endorsed the free market and rejected virtually every belief held by Labour politicians over the past 70 years.

The impact is even greater following the rapid movement by the leadership over the past few days to drop or modify vulnerable positions on the trade unions, devolution and the single currency. Although the Blair campaign has looked to be dodging and weaving in changing policy as it goes along, this has left unresolved questions both about the specifics of Labour's public spending plans and also about how a Blair government would make a difference in office.

Mr Blair has explicitly embraced "the new global economy", a position now being challenged by many on the European Left. Mr Blair has



PETER RIDDELL

no such doubts about market forces: "There is no overriding reason for preferring the public provision of goods and services, particularly when those services operate in a competitive market, then the presumption should be that economic activity is best left to the private sector, with market forces being fully encouraged to operate." Not only is it impossible to imagine any past Labour leader making these remarks, but they could only be uttered through clenched teeth by many in the Shadow Cabinet, as was evident from Margaret Beckett's cool World at One interview yesterday.

Blairism is best summed up by his phrase "what counts is what works". This differs from the current Tory approach in its emphasis on

social cohesion as being necessary for economic growth, making globalisation socially acceptable. But it is easier to define what Mr Blair would not do, than what he would.

Mr Blair says education is his top priority, but apart from a financially marginal, and mistaken, transfer of money from the assisted places scheme, Labour has given no indication of how it would achieve some of the desirable aspirations put forward by David Blunkett, other than waving a big stick.

The main exception is unemployment, the one area where Gordon Brown sounded distinctive and passionate in the BBC2 debate of the Chancellors on Sunday evening. His repeated warning about the one in five non-pensioner households with no one working is a powerful rallying cry for a left-of-centre party. But, otherwise, it is all good intentions.

If a Blair government raises taxes on business or accepts measures raising their costs, he risks being accused of betrayal by industry and the City. Alternatively, if he sticks to his free-market stand of the past few days, he risks disputes with union leaders and local authorities. Mr Blair is almost making his appeal "Tory measures, Labour men". That poses the awkward question of whether the Labour team either wants or is able to perform that task.

'Sign of panic' cheers Tories

By Philip Webster
POLITICAL EDITOR

SENIOR ministers voiced delight yesterday at what they felt was the first direct hit of the election campaign — forcing Labour to drop its long-held hostility to privatisation in order to fill the alleged £12 billion black hole in its finances.

The shift was not instant: a few weeks ago Gordon Brown let it be known that he wanted to sell off the Tote but was rapidly stopped by the race-going Robin Cook. The present search for self-off candidates, however, was prompted by the Shadow Chancellor's acceptance last week that there was a £15 billion gap in his proceeds for the second year of government if he did not try to match the Government's planned privatisation proceeds.

Ministers have been stunned that such a small sum should have prompted such a radical change. "If they panic like this when they are 20 points ahead, what would happen if it was neck-and-neck," one senior minister said yesterday. Emboldened by their success they have turned to the next alleged gap, Labour's promise to release local authority capital receipts in order to fund its house-building programme.

About £7.5 billion is sitting in the bank balances of local authorities from the sales over the years of council houses and other assets. The receipts, which they are prevented from spending, are used to keep down public borrowing.

The Tories say that councils will receive a further £1.3 billion a year over the next five years, bringing to more than £13 billion the total that Labour could release.

But while Labour says that it will phase the release of the money in a responsible way, the Tories have made the assumption that this will be over five years, making the cost £2.6 billion a year. Labour fiercely contests the assumption and says that the extent of the phasing will depend on the capacity of the building industry to respond and "overall economic requirements".

Anatole Kaletsky, page 16

History offers sombre lesson



TONY BLAIR has some strange bedfellows as the latest in a long list of politicians to try to find a "third way" (Mark Henderson writes). The Yugoslav leader Marshal Tito, left, was the first to try when he defied Stalin to launch his own brand of communism in 1948. He was followed in 1956 by Imre Nagy in Hungary, and in the Prague Spring of 1968 by the Czech leader Alexander Dubcek, whose hopes of creating "communism with a human face" were crushed by Soviet tanks. Although oc-

asionally revived by the likes of Bill Clinton and Jacques Chirac, the French President, the notion is not the fashionable nostrum that it once was. Indeed, the idea of a "third way" has most recently been appropriated by the far Right. Aleksandr Lebed, a rival of President Yeltsin, considered the name for his new political party in Russia, and the British magazine *Third Way*, run by former members of the National Front, recently attracted attention for backing the Referendum Party.



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Labour is reminded of 'scum' remarks

THE Tories sought yesterday to counter Labour claims to be a pro-business party by highlighting a Shadow minister's past description of some wealthy businessmen as "stinking, lousy, thieving, incompetent scum" (James Landale writes).

Conservative Central Office took out a full-page advertisement in the *London Evening Standard* quoting Frank Dobson, the Shadow Environment Minister. The Tories claimed that Mr Dobson had made his attack on business people in 1992.

The advertisement said: "This is new Labour that is trying to present itself as the 'party of business'. Behind the smile of new Labour lie old instincts which are the enemy of businesses everywhere."

Labour spokesmen accused the Tories of lying. They said that Mr Dobson had been quoted selectively as he had described as "thieving scum" the "tiny number of employers who supported in 1992 the



Frank Dobson and the Tory party advert

"STINKING, LOUSY, THIEVING, INCOMPETENT SCUM."

abolition of wages councils for employees on the poverty line while themselves having rich and ostentatious lifestyles."

They said the other remarks referred to Tory ministers who supported such employers.

The comments were first published in *The Sun* on September 29, 1992. "Yes, it is the politics of envy," Mr Dobson was quoted as saying. "We are envious of their wealth. These people are stinking, lousy, thieving, incompetent scum. Most of them are Tories."

Tony gets the bird again

The Tory chicken, left, made a reappearance yesterday when Tony Blair arrived at the Corn Exchange in London. As the Labour leader got out of his car, the chicken, which has not been seen since last Thursday, stepped in front of him waving a placard with the words: "What are you going to privatise, Tony?" Labour officials seized the bird and wrestled it away while a courier tried to pull its head off.



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Grand prix star finds a captive audience on the political circuit

THE shock on Edwina Currie's face was apparent in the butcher's, but she said not a word. Mrs Currie was at the Allenton shopping centre outside Derby. Between her and the butcher lay a counter of raw and cooked meats, side by side.

A former Health Minister needed no reminding what had caused the *E.coli* outbreak in Scotland, but this was no time to make enemies: the Tory candidate for South Derbyshire is facing an uphill battle in a constituency to which unhelpful new bits have been added.

This shopping centre was

with a grand prix champion. Mr Arain bumped into an old trade union official. Mrs Currie tut-tutted. "One of the things I've got to teach Javed," said our Damon Hill of the political circuit, "is that you don't argue with Labour voters."

Rumours of her visit had not reached the Pears bakery when I arrived. Was she around? I asked.

"No, I think we'd know," replied the shop assistant. "She usually has gateaux." Moments later Mrs Currie sat in, in pale lilac.

"You do look nice," said the assistant, as groupies crowded round. One small terrified lady customer with a Kwik-save bag tried to extract 12 white baps from a maelstrom. Mrs Currie cornered a lad in a Nottingham Refrigeration boiler suit. "Are you one of mine?"

"No, we've come to fix the fridge."

"Where are you from?" she said to a man in the Autoparts Superstore. "Pentagon Vauxhall," he said.

"Where do you live?" she said to a startled lady with wet hair, pinned over the basin in a hairdresser's.

"You're mine, aren't you?" she chirped at an old fellow in Blades barbers, a hair-clipper poised inches from his left ear.

"Sitting there like captives," she chuckled to us outside. "Hi!"

Next, the lilac tornado hit Green's Footwear. By now we were getting the hang of her technique. Here were people with one shoe off, who could not run. But she saw a sign "Sumbeds upstairs" and stormed up to interrogate a bewildered youth, waiting for his tanning girlfriend.

"I don't vote," he stammered. "You should. Where are you from?"

"Belper."

Belper is not in Mrs Currie's constituency.



MATTHEW PARRIS

one of those bits and her mission was to conquer. Outside, a busy ringroad set in rows of Thirties semis with the occasional monkey puzzle tree could almost have been Hendon — until you saw the load of hay passing by. A mixed-up, scrappy place. South Derbyshire — not really a place at all. Just like middle England. Flat cap country.

With her was the Tory candidate for Derby South, Javed Arain. A Jewish lady towing an Asian gentleman behind her. He was ambitious but nervous: a learner driver out for a practice spin



Edwina Currie canvassing for votes at the Rose and Crown in Chellaston

rie's constituency. She swung away to confront a woman just emerged, flushed pink, from a striped pine cubicle. Whatever it was this woman had expected to see after her brief exposure to the ultra-violet, it was not a lilac Mrs Currie. She looked frightened and disoriented. "Where are you from?" Then off Mrs Currie went down the pavement, Javed struggling to keep up. Everyone recognised her.

Most people liked her. Many seemed quite excited to meet her. But some stubbornly refused to vote for her.

"I met this woman," one of her supporters told me, "who, when I asked her if she'd vote Conservative, said 'No. I don't hold with all these political parties. I'm voting for that Mrs Currie off the telly.'"

The anecdote was recounted as being encouraging to South Derbyshire Tories.

and in a way it is. But things have come to quite a pass when a struggling candidate takes comfort from the fact that voters may forget she's a Tory.

"Who's that?" a little girl asked her grandad outside the Rose and Crown in Chellaston, where Edwina Currie had repaired for a Diet Coke. "That's our MP," he said, proudly. "Edwina Hotpot." He posed for a photograph with her.

Hague steers clear of speculation on party leadership

Valerie Elliott meets a rising star of the Tory party who has much more than his political future in mind

WILLIAM HAGUE, the Welsh Secretary, took Major's reins yesterday in a bold move to show off his leadership qualities.

On this occasion Major was a horse and Mr Hague was demonstrating his cart-driving skill. "Who needs a battle bus?" he said, towering over the prize-winning shire horse. That, however, was the only hint to fuel talk of a future Hague bid for the leadership of the Conservative Party as he went on the campaign trail yesterday.

"I am not contemplating being anything other than MP for Richmond and Secretary of State for Wales. I am not interested in talk of Conservative leadership elections. Every member of the party should be concentrating on winning the election 24 hours a day," he said.

But we already know that Mr Hague is an astute politician. And it is clear that he is being pushed forward to take a high-profile role in this campaign and is in constant touch with the party strategists at Central Office in London. He was put up at short notice yesterday for BBC Radio 4's *The World at One* to attack what Conservatives refer to as Labour's U-turn on privatisation.

Last night he also put forward the Tory case on education in a Channel 4 television debate with David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary. Angling for the education portfolio perhaps? Mr Hague rejected the notion.

The only time he displayed any irritation was after mugging up his brief for the radio broadcast only to find that the satellite link had failed. He was saved by a telephone at a motorway service station near Bridgend.

After two years as Welsh Secretary he no longer objects to accusations of "going na-

tive". After all, he is to marry a Welsh woman, Ffion Jenkins, a civil servant who works for him, and he willingly said yesterday that Wales had become an important part of his life.

His fiancée is also teaching him Welsh, which he said he was enjoying very much.

He is not impressed with taunts that he is merely an English overlord representing the Cabinet and Westminster in Wales. "The people recognise I have fought very hard for the people of Wales and I get tired of the gibes. The job you do is more important than where you come from."

He is also determined to speak out against Labour's plans for a Welsh assembly. "That is one think the voters of Wales do not mention on the doorstep. It would be an expensive room full of hot air. It would divide Wales not unite it" and make Wales inward-looking instead of outward-looking.

He dismissed talk of a Tory wipeout in Wales at the election and believes he could even win a few seats.

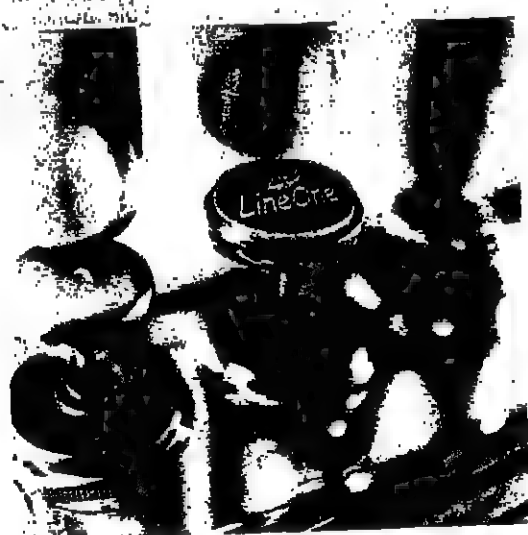
Mr Hague had little time to discuss sleaze. He dubbed it "a side issue" and said it should not be the subject on which the country's future was decided at the election. It was up to local Conservative associations to choose their candidate. When pressed to say whether he supported more party central control on constituencies, however, he conceded that that might be something to look at later.

He fed a six-day-old kid at a Cardiff city farm, cooed at a baby at B&Q and spoke often about Ffion — how they had bought his fiancée's diamond engagement ring in London, but were thinking of having their wedding rings made from Welsh gold.

He was in such good spirits that he even pledged Welsh Office help in the search for the so-called Beast of Bont, the cat-like creature that has been attacking sheep around Pont-rhydyfendigaid in Dyfed. But it was a warm spring day and love was in the air, so he added: "I don't think I could go and hunt him personally, though."



William Hague taking a break from canvassing in Wales to speak to Times reporter Valerie Elliott



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Zaire troops switch sides as unrest grows in Kinshasa

By SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT, AND WILLIAM WALLIS IN KINSHASA

HUNDREDS of Zairean government troops changed sides yesterday and donned white headbands to signal their allegiance to rebels closing in on the country's second largest city, Lubumbashi.

As they did so, unrest grew in Kinshasa, the capital, with factions of President Mobutu's Government squabbling over who should wield what remains of its power.

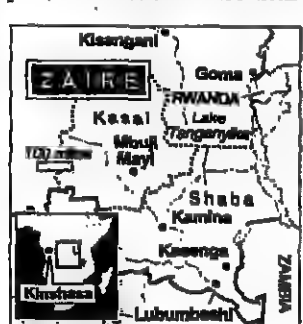
Soldiers at several barracks in and around Lubumbashi switched sides after men, believed to have been fellow government troops, broadcast appeals on the local radio station urging them to lay down their arms.

In a further sign that Zaire's rebellion is taking the form of a revolution against President Mobutu, the Lubumbashi-based Governor of Shaba province repeated his plea that the army should not allow "bloodshed or looting". Kyungu was Kumbwani was appointed Governor by Mr Mobutu only a fortnight ago. The President, 66, who is fighting advanced prostate cancer, hoped Mr Kyungu would put backbones into his army after it retreated from a third of Zaire without a fight.

Since taking office the Gov-

ernor, a former secessionist, has dropped demands for an independent Shaba and sought to reserve a position for himself in a rebel administration by insisting that he looks forward to working with Laurent Kabila, the guerrilla leader. The popularity of Mr Kabila, who is seen as a liberator by most Zaireans after 32 years of dictatorship under President Mobutu, has grown with every town that he has taken.

As a result MbujiMayi, the capital of East Kasai and the hub of Zaire's diamond industry, fell to his men peacefully at the weekend. Yesterday it was clear that Lubumbashi would go the same way. Groups of soldiers milled about discussing which side to join, businessmen shut their



shops and rich Zaireans close to the Mobutu regime continued to leave for the "safety" of neighbouring Zambia.

"What is surprising is that there have been no panicking soldiers, and no signs of looting," said a resident of Lubumbashi who is familiar with the army's reputation for pillage and rape.

The rebel Alliance of Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire took Kipushi, 20 miles south of Lubumbashi, yesterday morning in a surprise attack in which there was no fighting. The sudden loss of the town was a clear indication that the rebels would press on to Lubumbashi, which was expected to fall within two days.

"The rebels were mostly very young, in uniform, and carrying light weapons. They just moved into the town and then marched on towards Lubumbashi. Everyone was delighted to wake up in the newly liberated area," a businessman in Kipushi said.

Alliance and government envoys continued to meet in Pretoria yesterday to discuss a ceasefire, but as one diplomat said: "It's difficult to have a ceasefire when there doesn't seem to be any fighting." The



Students loyal to Etienne Tshisekedi, Zaire's Prime Minister, demonstrate yesterday against President Mobutu in Kinshasa, the capital

next major prize for the rebels will be Kinshasa, where Mr Mobutu has been keeping a low profile in his hilltop palace while members of the *classe politique* continue to bicker over who is going to be Prime Minister in his largely defunct regime. Soldiers fired teargas

grenades when one of the spots looked like getting out of control, but there were no reports of serious injuries.

Supporters of Etienne Tshisekedi, the newly appointed Prime Minister, broke through cordons of troops who used armoured cars to try to

stop them from marching on parliament yesterday. MPs later abandoned a proposal to oust Mr Tshisekedi, a former opponent of Mr Mobutu.

He was appointed to the post only last Wednesday, and immediately excluded Mr Mobutu's supporters from his

new Cabinet. Several thousand protesters set up barricades of burning tyres in the streets of the capital's teeming shantytowns and paramilitary police used armoured vehicles, teargas and baton charges to disperse protesters who reached parliament.

Some police sent to disperse the crowds were visibly slow to obey orders.

The political turmoil in Kinshasa has further complicated the country's crisis. The rebels have captured more than a third of the vast nation since taking up arms in October.

India risks humiliation of Independence Day chaos

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

ATTEMPTS to save India's ten-month-old coalition Government look doomed, threatening to throw the country into one of its greatest political upheavals four months before its fiftieth anniversary of independence.

The chaos in Delhi is in contrast to political stability in Pakistan, which has its strongest elected Government, a Prime Minister who can no longer be sacked by the President, and an army whose new generation of senior officers are giving democracy its greatest freedom.

This is an unusual state of affairs: rarely in the past decade has Pakistan been in better political shape, or India in worse. Delhi would be humiliated were it still in crisis on August 15, Independence Day, Pakistan celebrates its formation a day earlier.

The rule of H.D. Deve Gowda, the Indian Prime Minister, is all but certain to end this week. His aides rule out resignation, but if he does

not quit there seems no way out of defeat in a vote of confidence due on Friday in the Lok Sabha (lower house of parliament).

A general election may be the only way out of deadlock, although most parties are desperate to avoid one less than a year after the last, inconclusive, poll. The crisis was precipitated by the Congress party, which has ruled India for most of the half century of independence, when it withdrew parliamentary support from Mr Deve Gowda's 13-party coalition and launched a seemingly futile attempt to lead a new administration.

The reason for the split is evidently personal, not ideological as claimed. Sitaram Kesri, the Congress president, is angry that he and other senior party members are being pursued by police for corruption and other alleged misdeeds.

He has been interrogated about the death of his physician, allegedly murdered. Mr

Kesri claims this is part of a political vendetta by the Prime Minister against senior Congress politicians, a claim that seems to have some validity given the number who are being pursued. Senior politicians are generally safe from the law unless their rivals arrange otherwise.

Mr Deve Gowda and Mr Kesri have been withering in their comments about each other, dragging politics even lower in the public estimation.

The alternative to an election appears to be the selection of a replacement Prime Minister. The Congress party would doubtless return to the fold if that were arranged. It would, however, expect a withdrawal of police investigations into the financial affairs of some of its senior MPs.

The hardline pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party has pledged to vote against the Government on Friday, ensuring its downfall, unless Congress, which has more to fear from an election than most other parties, loses its nerve.

Phone taps 'protected Mitterrand daughter'

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

THE Elysée Palace telephone tapping scandal continued to escalate yesterday amid revelations of a plot to kidnap François Mitterrand's illegitimate daughter, allegations of blackmail and calls from both the Left and the Right for the Government to lift "monarchical" secrecy laws.

Michel Charasse, the former Socialist minister, said that the illegal phone tapping, carried out on Mitterrand's orders, had been necessary to protect the late President's family because of "terrorist attacks" from 1982 to 1986.

In an interview published in *L'Est Républicain*, M. Charasse, a close confidant of the former President, said that Mitterrand had received repeated threats to kidnap and kill his illegitimate daughter, Mazarine Pinget, whose existence was only made public in 1994. Gilbert and Jean-Christophe Mitterrand, the former President's sons, had also received "serious threats".

Lionel Jospin, the Socialist leader, called for the Government to lift official secrecy surrounding the illegal phone tapping by the anti-terrorist unit at the Elysée. François Léotard, the centre-right former Defence Minister, whose former aides were subjected to wiretaps by his successor, also called for secrecy to be lifted and questioned the existence of the French secret police, the Renseignements Généraux, which he called "archaic".

Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, refused a request by Gilles Ménage, who headed Mitterrand's office in the early 1980s and is being investigated for the alleged tapping, to waive official secrecy to allow him to prepare his defence.



Fingert target of 'plot' by would-be kidnappers

Pilots fear tragedies in perilous Africa airspace

South African pilots say air traffic controls over the continent have collapsed and are calling for action. R.W. Johnson writes from Johannesburg

SOUTH African airline pilots — backed by the International Federation of Airline Pilots' Associations — have again issued a warning about the likelihood of "catastrophic accidents" in African airspace caused by the breakdown of air traffic control systems across the continent.

Pilots flying from South Africa are most at risk, having to overfly the entire continent to reach Europe. They point out that once a plane gets as far north as Zimbabwe all African countries thereafter, with the exception of Egypt and Morocco, are "critically deficient" in the flight information they provide. "There is little or no radar or VHF radio coverage" over 90 per cent of Africa, the pilots say.

"Numerous navigation beacons are permanently out of service. Other facilities often do not work. Because many airports have not been surveyed for a long time, flight-deck crews cannot be assured that the obstacle clearance heights used in the determination of approach minimum altitudes are still correct. Anemometers and other essential aids are either defective or are missing."

The pilots blame out-of-date and poorly maintained equipment, poor training and corruption. Large overflight and navigation fees are paid to all African states — a typical flight from Johannesburg to London costs an airline more than £5,000 in such fees, but this money simply vanishes and is clearly not being used to maintain air traffic services. In some African countries, such as Nigeria, this situation has produced a high incidence of air crashes, and pilots say that near-misses are becoming

common. The pilots have had to fall back on their own resources — the use of Traffic Information Broadcasts Between Aircraft (TIBA) procedures — introduced as a temporary measure over Africa 20 years ago but today still basic to any hope of safety in African skies. The problem is that the 126.9m frequency used by TIBA has now become so crowded that even the efficiency of this stop-gap is diminishing — and it could

vent a collision by less than 100ft. SAA pilots are even talking of the possibility of reverting to flying to Europe around the bulge of Africa, as in the days of anti-apartheid sanctions. But this route was costly in terms of fuel, required modified planes and would be uncompetitive if other airlines did not follow suit.

What the pilots want is concerted action not only by the International Federation of Airline Pilots' Associations but by the International Airline Transport Association (IATA) and the International Civil Aviation Organisation, if necessary levying sanctions against offending countries. To date IATA and the civil aviation organisation have steered away from such confrontational tactics. Air safety depends on states acknowledging that deficiencies exist, and no African state is willing to admit to shortcomings.

The pilots issued a warning that air traffic over Africa is increasing rapidly and that if the international bodies continue to play a passive role, large-scale air tragedies are inevitable. "Perhaps it will take a few really bad disasters to jolt people into doing what they ought to do."

never be hoped to replace more than a fraction of the services which should have been provided by ground controllers. Second, some planes are fitted with TCAS (Traffic Alert and Collision Avoidance Systems), though these are not compulsory. Using TCAS, one South African Airways plane recently picked up two other aircraft closing on it, one 2,100ft above and one only 200ft above. An emergency avoidance manoeuvre prevented a collision.

Burma general escapes bomb

By ANDREW DRUMMOND IN BANGKOK AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A BOMB which exploded at the house of one of Burma's military leaders killed his daughter and led to a renewed security alert in Rangoon, diplomats said yesterday.

The military junta, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), said last night that a "terrorist bomb" went off at the home of Lieutenant General Tin Oo, ranked number four in the junta, which was under heavy guard yesterday. A SLORC spokesman said the bomb had apparently arrived "as a parcel".

It is the second time in less than four months that General Tin Oo has escaped a bomb blast. On Christmas Eve, only a few minutes after he had left, two explosions ripped open a Buddhist temple, killing five people and injuring 13.

Karen separatists and Muslim student pro-democracy organisations denied responsibility for the latest bomb. Western diplomats have not ruled out the possibility that the bomb could have been an "inside job" resulting from rivalry inside SLORC.

Cho Lei Oo, 33, General Tin Oo's daughter, who had two small children, is said to have died instantly in the explosion on Sunday night.

There was no shortage of suspects. General Tin Oo, a hardliner, had been supervising a crackdown on the Karen ethnic minority on the border with Thailand. He has been quoted as urging the "annihilation" of all enemies of the state, alienating pro-democracy leaders and failing to win friends in SLORC, intent on luring investors to Burma.

Police and Inkatha in clash

Johannesburg: Supporters of the Inkatha Freedom Party, scuffled with police outside the Supreme Court here yesterday when an inquiry into the deaths of eight Inkatha marchers and 11 other people began (Inigo Gilmore writes).

The eight marchers were killed outside the rival African National Congress's headquarters in Johannesburg on March 28, 1994. The 11 others died at two other places. The inquiry is considering only these 19 of more than 50 deaths in and around Johannesburg on the same day.

Pakistan hit by food riots

Peshawar: Food riots paralysed this northwestern Pakistani city and hit other towns, forcing the Government to order special trains to take wheat there. About 5,000 people, many carrying sticks, looted a state-run store in Peshawar and hundreds tried to attack two flour mills on the second day of riots, police said. The Government blames the shortage on smuggling to neighbouring countries, hoarding and the late arrival of imported wheat. (Reuters)

Jail hearing in fraud case

Seoul: Chung Tae Soo, founder of South Korea's stricken Hanbo Group, in testimony broadcast from a Seoul jail, told a parliamentary inquiry he had donated money to President Kim Young Sam's election campaign and other political figures. Three close associates of the President are on trial with Mr Chung and six others for corruption uncovered when Hanbo collapsed. (Reuters)

Afghan relief men flogged

Kabul: Five Afghan workers for a French humanitarian agency were flogged for violating Islamic law and mixing with Afghan women at a party. The flogging, aimed at humiliating the staff of Action Contre la Faim rather than causing them pain, was carried out after a 45-day jail term. They received between nine and 29 lashes each. (AFP)

It's not so good to talk

Haifa: A thief who ransacked a Haifa home found himself in the arms of the law after agreeing to a date with a policewoman over the mobile phone he stole. Sergeant-Major Yardena Rahamim said that the 22-year-old suspect agreed to a date after only a brief conversation. (AFP)

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Stray dog kills man who befriended it

FROM PATRICK SMELLIE IN WELLINGTON

A STRAY hunting dog mauled to death a man who had befriended it only days earlier. Koro Dinsdale, 59, a New Zealand meat worker, died on Sunday in a frenzied attack.

The dog was identified after a post-mortem examination yesterday as a bull terrier cross, of a kind commonly used in New Zealand for pig hunting.

Mr Dinsdale had been out with the bull terrier and a dog of his own to collect watercress about 100 yards from his

home in the North Island hamlet of Te Puke. Mr Dinsdale's injuries indicated that the brute bull terrier had first attacked the other dog and then Mr Dinsdale when he tried to separate them.

He was found dead by his adult sons, with horrific bite wounds over 90 per cent of his body. His right leg was almost severed, he had suffered massive blood loss from wounds to his throat, and his

Zealand meat worker, died on Sunday in a frenzied attack.

retrieve Mr Dinsdale's body. His brother, Wawi Dinsdale, said Mr Dinsdale was an experienced dog handler and had trained pig dogs, but would not have anticipated the bull terrier's attack. "They don't growl or bark. They just go for you and latch on," he said. "They should be outlawed."

New Zealand strengthened its dog laws last year to allow the impounding and destruction of dangerous dogs, but did not ban particular breeds because attempts to do so in Britain have led to protracted legal wrangles.

Back on Chi
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Attack on Chinese rights record backed by Britain

By MICHAEL BINYON, CHARLES BRENNER, AND JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

BRITAIN yesterday gave strong support to a Danish decision to sponsor a resolution condemning China's record at the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, confirmed that Britain would co-sponsor the resolution, which has caused sharp division within the European Union. "It is important that international attention is focused on the need for improvement in China's human rights situation," he said. Ten other EU members are likely to join Britain in backing the resolution later this week. France and Germany, however, insisted that quiet diplomacy would achieve more, and refused to allow the Dutch presidency of the EU to table a motion on behalf of all 15 members. Spain and Italy were also reluctant to endorse the criticism.

China attacked the Danish move. "We still hope Den-

mark will think further about the consequences of such action," Shen Guofang, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, said at a forum on human rights in Beijing. "If it takes the lead in proposing this anti-China motion, then it will be the biggest loser." He added: "Relations will be severely damaged in the political, economic and trade areas."

Niels Helveg Petersen, the Danish Foreign Minister, said he hoped the move would not harm trade with China, where some of Denmark's biggest companies have extensive interests.

"If you cannot put forward criticism in this forum, where the devil can you do it?" he said.

Observers said the French position was motivated by a fear of losing trade opportunities. President Chirac is to visit Beijing next month and hopes to sell millions of dollars of Airbus airliners.

The United States also wel-

comed Denmark's decision. China has defeated previous resolutions over the past six years, thanks to support from developing countries in the UN Security Council.

Chinese academics produced yesterday by the Foreign Ministry said that China's two leading human rights activists, Wei Jingsheng and Wang Dan, currently serving long prison sentences for alleged sedition, were criminals who were "dealt with according to proper legal procedures".

EU Foreign Ministers discussed China on the first evening of their two-day meeting in Noordwijk, a resort on the Dutch coast. Foreign affairs were only part of a look at progress in the inter-governmental conference on such contentious questions as the integration of the Western European Union and the EU, reducing the number of EU commissioners, and reweighting the votes of the large and small EU members.

The ministers' meeting came immediately after the one-day conference of finance ministers in the resort. With the exception of Britain, the ministers used the session to send a clarion call to sceptical financial markets that the euro would be born on schedule on January 1, 1999.

Buoyed by Helmut Kohl's decision to run again for the chancellorship, they mopped up the last technical items on the countdown for the single currency and set a broad date for the selection of the first members of the euro club. The momentous council which will pick the founders is to be held around May 1 next year in Brussels. The choice of venue was widely viewed as a slap at London, because in normal EU tradition the meeting should be held in Britain as it will hold the Euro-presidency in the first half of next year.

Mr Clarke, far out of line with his EU colleagues, poured cold water on single-currency enthusiasm, saying a launch on schedule was "unlikely but not impossible".

Leading article, page 17

Scientist rocks the boat in Noah's Ark case

FROM REUTER
IN SYDNEY

THE battle between science and creationism entered a Sydney courtroom yesterday, with Noah's Ark at the centre of the dispute.

An Australian scientist and an American marine salvage expert are suing creationist Allen Roberts under Australian consumer law. Mr Roberts is accused of breach of copyright and misleading the public in lectures on his explorations of an archaeological site in eastern Turkey which many believe is the remains of Noah's Ark.

While lawyers assured the court that the biblical story of creation was not on trial, the small courtroom was packed with supporters from both sides of the divide.

David Fasold, a marine salvage expert, claims Mr Roberts, who holds a US Christian education doctorate, breached copyright by using his drawings of an archaeological site near Mount Ararat in lecture-tour literature. Mr Roberts sold lecture brochures in 1992 containing Mr Fasold's drawing. "I see them as exploiting and embellishing [my drawing] to try to use it to create the

concept that creation science is balanced science and I object to that," Mr Fasold said.

Ian Plimer, a Melbourne geology professor, claims Mr Roberts misled paying audiences during lectures by referring to scientific reports of the site as partly a result of his work, and by selling videotapes of his lectures. Both actions, he said, broke Australian fair trading laws. "I have been to the site and looked at his claims and I say they are not convincing," said Professor Plimer, who has a long history of challenging creationists.

In his lecture video, played to the court, Mr Roberts said the Turkish site "appeared to be a boat, the kind any child would recognise", adding that it was the size of a "battleship" and matched the dimensions of Noah's Ark in Genesis.

Both sides agree that this case will not have the same impact as the famous "monkey" trial in the United States in 1925. Then a young Tennessee biology teacher, John Scopes, was tried for teaching Darwin's theory of evolution. Scopes was found guilty, but the public outcry forced Tennessee to moderate its creationist education.



The geographical feature near Mount Ararat, Turkey, said to resemble the Ark



Ian Plimer, left, who is suing Allen Roberts, right



One of the pictures of alleged torture in East Timor

East Timor torture video

Geneva: The camera shows a man's bloody wrist, nailed to his prison plank. Men in khaki torture inmates with sticks, chair legs, electric shocks and metal chains. A corpse wrapped in rags lies in a corner.

These and other graphic images allegedly showing torture of East Timorese youths by the Indonesian Army were presented yesterday to the United Nations

Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva by the ousted independence leader and 1996 Nobel Peace laureate, Jose Ramos Horta, for investigation.

Mr Horta said the still pictures from a video film were taken in East Timor jails in 1996 and smuggled out recently. He called for a UN investigation and urged the West to stop sending arms to Indonesia. (Reuters)

Clinton plea as Israel awaits more suicide bombs

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM AND
BROMWYN MADDON
IN WASHINGTON

THE urgency behind yesterday's talks between Benjamin Netanyahu and President Clinton was highlighted as Israeli-Arab violence continued and a senior Israeli official said more Islamic suicide attacks were expected "in the immediate future".

In Washington, President Clinton prepared to urge Israel to hold new talks with Palestinian leaders and make rapid improvements in the

treatment of Palestinians, to save the peace process. But in yesterday's meeting with Mr Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Clinton planned to treat warily his suggestion that Palestinians and Israelis embark immediately on intensive make-or-break talks on the region's "final status". State Department officials believe this would be a high-risk and potentially damaging tactic.

Bill Richardson, the US Ambassador to the United Nations, said: "We are very concerned at the significant and rapid decline in the confidence that the Palestinians and the Israeli Gov-

ernment have in each other, and to some extent in the process itself".

Two Palestinians were wounded, one seriously, when a Jewish settler opened fire on them with an M16 assault rifle after his vehicle was stoned in the village of Kharbata in the occupied West Bank yesterday. In Hebron, another settler fired in the air after he was stoned by Palestinians near the Tomb of the Patriarchs, a shrine holy to Jews and Muslims.

An Israeli bus travelling in annexed east Jerusalem towards the Wailing Wall was attacked by stone-throwing Arabs. The windscreen was smashed

and two passengers wounded. Islamic Jihad, the Palestinian group which last week launched two abortive suicide attacks against Jewish settlers' children, threatened further attacks in a new leaflet. "Zionist settlers, no matter where in our Palestinian land, will not be safe from our weapons and our human bombs," the group said.

Major-General Shmuel Arad, head of the Israel Defence Force's Home Front, was reported by Israel radio as claiming that more suicide attacks were imminent.

Letters, page 17

Bonn fears Iranian violence over trial

FROM DEBORAH COLLETT
IN BONN

GERMANY fears violent retaliation from Iran if this week's Berlin court verdict on the killing of three Kurdish dissidents accuses Tehran of ordering the murders.

Klaus Kinkel, the Foreign Minister, met government security advisers and experts yesterday to discuss the consequences of the verdict, and his office is advising Germans not to travel to Iran, according to Der Spiegel magazine.

Relations between Iran and Germany, Iran's largest Western trading partner, are brittle in advance of Thursday's verdict in the marathon "Mykonos trial", named after the Greek restaurant in Berlin where the dissidents and their translator were killed in a hail of bullets in September 1992.

Prosecutors are seeking life terms from the Superior Court of Justice in Berlin for Kazem Darabi, an Iranian, and Abbas Khayel, a Lebanese, the two main defendants. They are accused of shooting Sadiq Sarafkandi, the Kurdish leader, and his colleagues, aided by three other Lebanese men.

After his summing-up last year, Bruno Jost, the state prosecutor, prompted angry government denials and demonstrations in Tehran by accusing Ayatollah Khamenei, the country's powerful spiritual leader, and President Rafsanjani of being behind the killings.

Bosnia religious violence sharpens fears for Pope

FROM TOM WALKER IN SARAJEVO

AN ALARMING upsurge in Bosnia's religious tensions is leading to fears for the safety of the Pope during his visit to Sarajevo in five days' time.

United Nations and Nato spokesmen yesterday denounced the latest attack, in which three rocket-propelled grenades were fired at a Franciscan friary in central Bosnia-Herzegovina, injuring a local policeman.

Up to 100,000 people are expected to attend Mass with the Pope in Sarajevo's Kosovo football stadium on Sunday. Nato and international security experts are worried that the fractious Bosnian police may not be able to ensure the Pope's safety.

In many of the recent attacks on Catholic institutions and buildings, the mainly Muslim force has proved an

ineffective deterrent. "Even in this country it's not that easy to wander around with three grenades without someone noticing," a UN spokesman said, adding that the "efforts of the local police cannot be deemed satisfactory".

The friary damaged in the attack, which is near Kakanj, 40 miles north of Sarajevo, is one of the country's oldest religious buildings. At least 40 windows were smashed by the blasts. Over the past month, at least three Catholic churches and two Muslim mosques have been damaged in similar circumstances, including a church in Sarajevo 20 yards from a police station.

A Bosnian police source denied his force was out of its depth in protecting one of the world's leading figures in a country that is awash with

arms. "It is not something we're fooling around with," he said. "This is the Pope and the whole world is watching."

Mato Zovic, Sarajevo's Vice-General, admitted it was unusual for the Pope to visit an 80 per cent Muslim city, and that the trip would be to his riskiest destination for some years.

"If he was coming to see Catholics, he would go to Mostar," Father Zovic said. "But he comes to see the whole country, of which Sarajevo is the capital." The city's prewar Catholic population of 528,000 has been halved, and there are only about 400,000 Catholics in the whole country.

Ironically, it is Bosnia's Croat Catholic community that has most to fear from the papal visit. The Pope has always been an outspoken advocate of a united Bosnia, while many Croats, particularly in Mostar and Herzegovina, favour joining Croatia.

The Roman Catholic Church has been at pains to distance itself from a poster issued by "Croatian Catholic Youth," which carries the message "He Comes to Us" under a picture of the Pope and young Croats waving the nationalist chequerboard symbol.

□ Mine appeal: Aleksandr Ivanko, a UN spokesman, called for more international resources for mine-clearing in Bosnia after three teenagers were killed when they accidentally triggered a device in a field near Iljias, 12 miles north of Sarajevo. (AP)



A defaced poster for this week's papal visit to Sarajevo

New tech tracks down virtual jukebox

FROM SUSAN BELL
IN PARIS

IN A breakthrough which has the potential to revolutionise the record industry, the world's first virtual jukebox has been launched by a French company, allowing music fans to sample and download their favourite songs at the touch of a button.

Paris Music's Savoy-based creators, Eurodat, took three years to develop its experimental technology. The first on-line music delivery network, Paris Music

is a mixture of jukebox and record shop, although it has several obvious advantages over the latter. The system allows Internet users to listen to their chosen song before deciding whether to download it on to their computer hard disk. A three-minute track takes about 90 seconds to download.

Paris Music is also competitively priced. Songs cost between Fr10 (£1.11) and Fr15 each, half the average price of a CD single in France. There are already 400 wide-ranging titles.

The system is being tested in Paris.

Strasbourg and Le Mans before it becomes generally available to the French public in September, according to Eurodat's president, Francois-Xavier Nuttall, 32. The company plans to expand the service to Britain, Germany and Finland next year.

While about 100 virtual record shops already exist on the Internet, they are mostly showcases which allow users to sample music and to buy their chosen discs by mail order. Paris Music is the first website which allows its customers to download individual tracks.



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Elton leads the way to the frivolous 50s

But not everyone wants to follow suit, says Grace Bradberry

THE pictures of Elton John celebrating his 50th birthday with a fancy dress party at the Hammersmith Palais will have sent a shudder down the spine of anyone approaching their half-century.

There was the former Reg Dwight, resplendent in a jewel-encrusted, Louis XIV-style costume, complete with floor-length boa, an enormous wig with a galleon on top, and lace



Over the top: Elton

cuffs. The whole effect suggested that age had not brought wisdom.

With 40-year-olds refusing to change their 30-year-old ways, 50 is becoming the point at which people officially move into middle age. But how do you mark this milestone without appearing sadly staid or ludicrously undignified?

Only a few people crave the big event. Actor and committed party-goer Christopher Biggins says he would love to throw a similar bash. "I think Elton John was quite right to do something big. If money was no object I would charter Concorde and fly 100 of my closest friends to some exotic island. Sadly, money is an object," he says wistfully. "But who knows, I might be able to tempt *Hello!* or *Okav!* to cover it and pay towards it."

But most people are not party animals — especially if they have to organise the occasion themselves. Author Joanna Trollope says

"I would be perfectly miserable to do an Elton John. I feel quite furtive about birthdays. It's not the age thing. It's just that although I enjoy the whole fireworks thing when it's for someone else, I loathe it when it's done for me. When I turned 50 I had a family dinner party."

Newsreader Martyn Lewis, who turned 50 two years ago, would not have done "an Elton John" for the world either. "I've never gone in for the huge thrash where you get very little chance to talk to most of the people who are there," he says. "I held two dinners parties and invited my family to one and friends to the other."

Writer Bel Mooney followed the same pattern when she turned 50 last October. "I had two dinner parties, one in Bath for my Bath friends, and one in London for my London friends. They were riotous, wonderful evenings. In my *Who's Who* entry I list one of my interests as friends, and I just wanted to have them all around me."

Lucinda Lambton could not resist the temptation to disappear. "I went to Euro Disneyland to see the beautiful American architecture. It was a magical experience. Perry (writer Sir Peregrine Worsthorne) and I got into the Metro outside the Opera and we got out in America with Peggy Sue playing on the speakers. I managed not to see Mickey Mouse."

But the man who managed to combine most people's fantasies is playwright, actor and director Steven Berkoff. He was in Los Angeles at the time of going to press but his partner, Clara Fischer, recalled jetting out to meet him in Rio de Janeiro, where he was making a film about Ronnie Biggs. "We went to a beach and celebrated with Biggs. The entire film crew was there and it was brilliant."



Split personality: "I'm pretty stressed because I feel I have to be two different people," says student Raj Kelair, who had never mixed with white people before going to college

Caught in the culture trap

Salma Khan, a 19-year-old Bengali woman, leads a double life. At home, she is a quiet and subservient daughter, but once outside, she becomes a hipster-wearing, cigarette-smoking, trend-obsessed teenager.

"To my parents, I'm the dutiful, obedient and oh so wide-eyed and innocent daughter," she says. "At home you won't catch me in low-cut body tops or tight hipsters, or smoking... Yet once I leave that front door, a sudden metamorphosis occurs. Off comes the straitjacket and out

comes a creative, flirtatious, impetuous hip chick."

Salma's father is a senior figure in London's Muslim Bengali community; she is expected to behave accordingly. "Sometimes I do feel trapped and conscience-stricken that I can't be open about the other side of me. I know it would break my parents' hearts and cause scandal." So the sexy PVC outfits she secretly owns remain hidden at the back of the wardrobe.

Salma's predicament may seem extreme, but thousands of Asian girls in Britain lead similar lives. While Asian



Few Asian girls cross the East-West divide without paying a price, says Anjana Ahuja

parents cling desperately to traditional ideals, their children grow up with different aspirations, which they know their parents will reject. The gap is sometimes unbridgeable: a double identity is often inevitable. And, since reputation is paramount, secrecy is essential.

This entrapment between two cultures is having an impact on the health of young Asians, according to a paper presented last week at the British Psychological Society.

Dev Sharma, an educational psychologist at Newham Council, East London, and Dr David Jones, from Birkbeck College, London University, looked at three groups of adolescents aged between 12 and 17: 234 British Asians from Newham, 248 white British teenagers, and 242 Indian teenagers in New Delhi. They discovered that British Asian adolescents felt more pressured and constrained than their white counterparts and teenagers in India. Asian teenagers born in Britain feel that they experience more conflict in their home lives and view their parents as more authoritarian.

Asian girls seemed particularly anxious, and it is already known that they are up to three times more likely to harm themselves, either as a

cry for help or in suicide attempts. They tend to feel less valued than sons and have lower self-esteem.

Mr Sharma was inspired to conduct the study because of a worrying rise in the number of Asian teenagers experiencing emotional problems and behavioural difficulties. He says: "There is enormous pressure for Asian teenagers to conform to cultural patterns, particularly when it comes to sexual morals and friendships between boys and girls. For example, a girl's chastity must be protected at all costs. Parents are worried that their children will stray."

He adds: "The problem is, if parents are overprotective and sensitive, children are more likely to rebel." Some of that frustration is beginning to surface. This week sees the publication of *Tell It Like It Is*, a collection of writings by young Asian women about their lives. The book touches on serious topics, such as bullying, rape and lesbianism, as well as lighter issues, such as dating, parties and people's preconceptions about Asian women. The extract on the right is from the book.

'Asian girls are three times more likely to harm themselves'

face. This week sees the publication of *Tell It Like It Is*, a collection of writings by young Asian women about their lives. The book touches on serious topics, such as bullying, rape and lesbianism, as well as lighter issues, such as dating, parties and people's preconceptions about Asian women. The extract on the right is from the book.

● *Tell It Like It Is: Young Asian Women Talk*, edited by Nadya Kassam. The Women's Press, April 10, £4.99

THE JOURNALIST

Anjana Ahuja is 27, was brought up in Harlow, Essex, and now lives in London. She has one younger brother. Her father is a retired teacher and her mother is a nurse. They met and married in this country.

MY PARENTS had already faced a culture divide. My father came to Britain from a high-caste, affluent Hindu family in New Delhi, my mother from a devout Muslim family in Trinidad. The unorthodox union caused considerable unease. My mother's family were concerned that my father was not Muslim; on his side, there was an unspoken expectation that he would return to India to marry.

The cracks in the family were eventually smoothed over, but they left their mark. My father was strict in some ways, such as making us do homework, but liberal in others. There was no discrimination — my younger brother was expected to obey the same rules. If my father said no to something, he would explain why. My mother was a softening influence.

I dressed as I pleased. I was permitted to go to discos and parties, with a curfew graded according to age. He bought me a car when I was 17 so I could be independent. He was happy about me living away from home at university, and accepted the fact I would have boyfriends. As a result, I felt under a lot less pressure than many of my Asian friends. I think it was good for stability — I didn't feel I had to rebel. We were encouraged to discuss everything and express opinions. It has resulted in a very close-knit family, especially as we have no other relatives in Britain.

Many Asian fathers would faint at their daughters living with a white man, but mine was marvellous. All he wanted to know was, is he educated? Does he treat you well? Does his family accept you? And, most important of all, are you both happy? I can only feel grateful that I was not brought up as an Asian girl living in a Western society, but instead encouraged to fuse the best aspects of both cultures.

THE STUDENT

Raj Kelair, 17, is studying for A levels in English literature, psychology and media studies. She is the eldest of three sisters and lives at the family home in Southall, Middlesex. Her father is a train driver and her mother works in an old people's home. Raj hopes to become a journalist.

THE lifestyle I lead is not typical — my dad is a declared atheist. But I would say that I'm pretty stressed. It's because sometimes I feel I have to be two different people.

I am able to be myself at home and speak the language and be silly. I can relax more. It sounds amazing but before I joined college I had never had interactions with white people. It was so strange. Whereas at school I had spoken Punjabi, I now had to talk in English all the time. I would change my voice when I went out. I felt I had to talk really politely. I felt inferior talking to white people.

All my friends are Asian and we go to each other's parties because our parents know each other. Other than that, I don't really get around. It could be a lot worse. Some of my friends' parents won't let them past the front door. My father draws the line at boyfriends. I don't push my luck.

I also feel pressure because, even though nobody likes to admit it, my parents are looked down on for having three daughters. People used to come to our house and tell my parents "never mind", as if they pitied them. It was as if they were missing out by not having a son.

It was pathetic. I remember being rude to some aunts about it; my father told me off. Now I'm grateful not to have a brother as life could be worse. So I am determined to make my parents proud of me by getting a decent education.

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The revolution in your head

The information age will give rise to the individual, ending the nation state, say James Dale Davidson and William Rees-Mogg

We stand at the threshold of the most sweeping revolution in history. Faster than all but a few now imagine, microprocessing will subvert and destroy the nation state, creating a new form of social organisation, the information society. The coming transformation is both good news and bad. The good news is that the information revolution will liberate individuals as never before. For the first time, those who can educate themselves will be almost entirely free to invent their own work and realise the full benefits of their own productivity. Genius will be unleashed, freed from both the oppression of government and the drags of racial and ethnic prejudice.

In an environment where the greatest source of wealth will be the ideas you have in your head rather than physical capital alone, anyone who thinks clearly will potentially be rich. The information age will be the age of upward mobility.

It will afford far more equal opportunity for the billions of humans in parts of the world that never shared fully in the prosperity of industrial society. The brightest, most successful and ambitious of these will emerge as truly sovereign individuals operating in a realm without physical existence that will nonetheless develop what promises to be the world's largest economy by the second decade of the new millennium. By 2025, the cyber-economy will have many millions of participants. Some of them will be as rich as Bill Gates, worth more than \$10 billion each. The cyberpoor may be those with an income of less than \$200,000 a year. There will be no cyberwelfare. No cybertaxes and no cyber-government. The cyber-economy could well be the greatest economic phenomenon of the next 30 years.

But there is bad news as well. The new organisation of society will leave individuals far more responsible for themselves than they have been accustomed to during the industrial period. When technology is mobile and transactions occur in cyberspace, the capacity of nation states to redistribute income on a large scale will dilapse. This means that you will no longer be obliged to live in a high-tax jurisdiction to earn high income. In the future, when most wealth can

be earned anywhere, and even spent anywhere, governments that attempt to charge too much as the price of domicile will merely drive away their best customers.

Changes that diminish the power of predominant institutions are both unsettling and dangerous. Just as monarchs, lords, popes and potentates fought ruthlessly to preserve their accustomed privileges in the early stages of the modern period, so today's governments will employ violence, often of a covert and arbitrary kind, in the attempt to hold back the clock. But however ruthlessly governments behave, they will be increasingly required to bargain with autonomous individuals whose resources will no longer be so easily controlled.

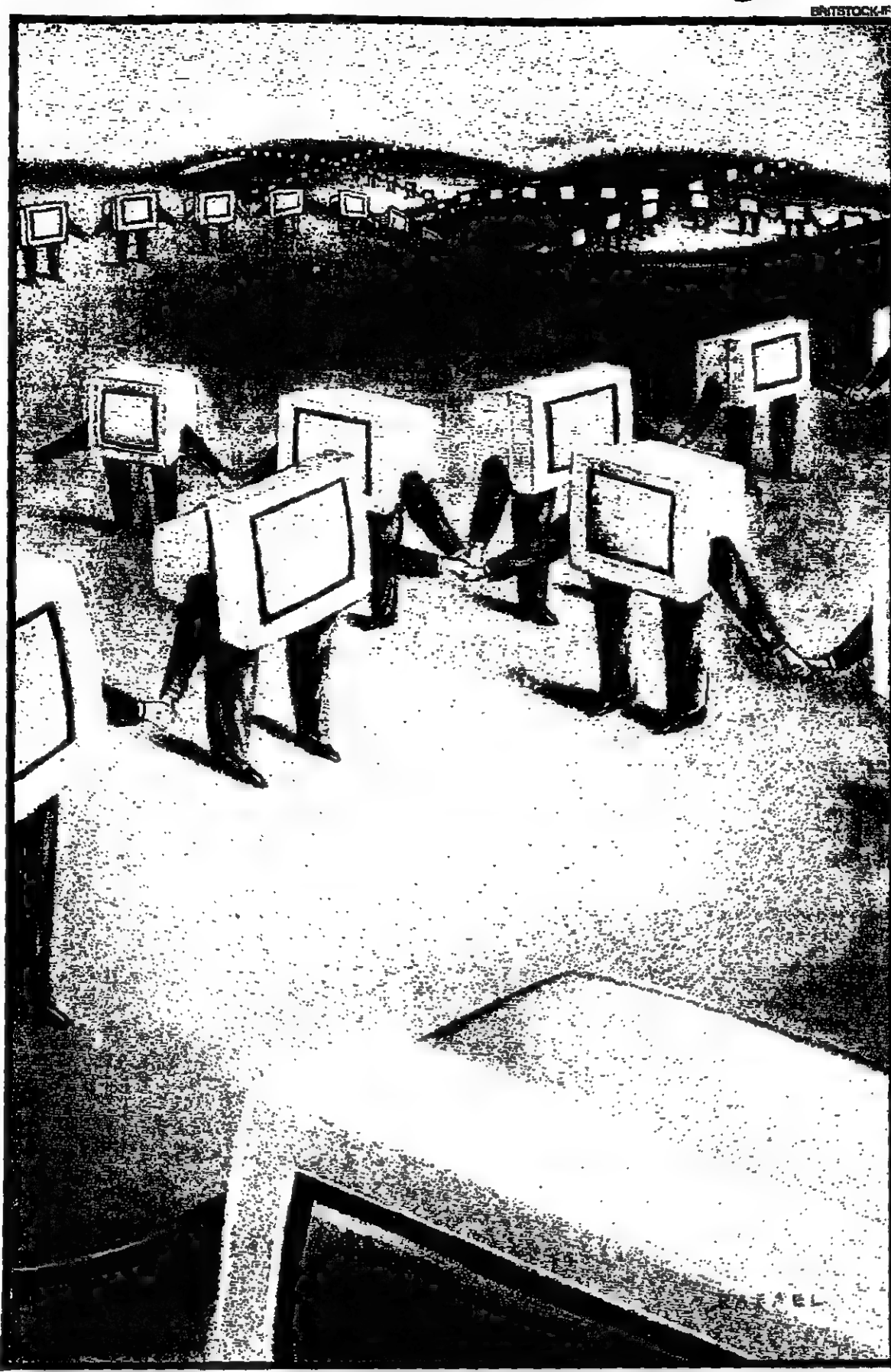
The information revolution will not only create a fiscal crisis for governments, it will tend to disintegrate all large structures. Fourteen empires have disappeared in the 20th century. The breakdown of empires is part of a process that will dissolve the nation state. Government will have to adapt to the growing autonomy of the individual. Taxing capacity will plunge by 50 to 70 per cent. This will tend to make smaller jurisdictions more successful. The challenge of setting competitive terms

The greatest source of wealth will be the ideas you have

to attract able individuals and their capital will be more easily undertaken in enclaves than across continents. We believe that as the modern nation state decomposes, latter-day barbarians will increasingly try to exercise power behind the scenes. The modern barbarians have already infiltrated the forms of the nation state without greatly changing its appearance.

Groups, such as the Russian mafia, are microparasites feeding on a dying system. Violently unscrupulous, these groups employ the techniques of the state on a smaller scale. Their growing influence and power are part of the downsizing of politics. Efforts to contain violence will devolve in ways that depend more upon efficiency than power.

The rise of the sovereign individual will not be wholly welcomed as a promising new phase of history, even among those who benefit from it most. Everyone will feel some misgivings and many will despise innovations that undermine



Autonomous individuals and bankrupt, desperate governments will confront one another across a new divide

the territorial nation state. It is a fact of human nature that radical change is almost always seen as a turn for the worse.

There is a high probability that some who are offended by the new ways as well as many who are disadvantaged by them, will react unpleasantly. Their nostalgia for compulsion will probably turn violent. The clash between the new and the old will shape the early years of the new millennium. We expect it to be a time of great danger and great reward, and a time of much diminished civility in some realms and unprecedented scope in others. Increasingly, autonomous individuals and bankrupt, desperate governments will confront one another across a new divide. We expect to see a radical restructuring of the nature of sovereignty and the virtual death of politics before the transition is over. You are destined to see the privatisation of almost all services governments now provide.

You will also see the re-emergence of associations of merchants and wealthy individuals with semi-sovereign powers. Such entities will re-emerge in place of the dying nation state in the new millennium, providing protection and helping to enforce contracts in an unsafe world.

In short, the future is likely to confound the expectations of those who have absorbed the civic myths of 20th-century industrial society. Among them are the illusions of social democracy. They presuppose that societies evolve in whatever way governments wish

them to — preferably in response to opinion polls and scrupulously counted votes. This was never as true as it seemed 50 years ago. Now it is an anachronism, as much an artefact of industrialism as a rusting smokestack. The civic myths reflect not only a mindset that sees society's problems as susceptible to engineering solutions, they also reflect a false confidence that resources and individuals will remain as vulnerable to political compulsion in the future as they have been in the 20th century. We doubt it. Market forces, not political majorities, will compel societies to reconfigure themselves in ways that public opinion will neither comprehend nor welcome. As they do, the naive view that history is what people wish it to be will prove wildly misleading.

It will therefore be crucial that you see the world anew. That means looking from the outside to re-analyse much that you have probably taken for granted. If you fail to transcend conventional thinking at a time when conventional thinking is losing touch with reality, then you will be more likely to fall prey to an epidemic of disorientation that lies ahead. Disorientation breeds mistakes that could threaten your business, your investments and your way of life.

●The Sovereign Individual by James Dale Davidson & William Rees-Mogg is published by Macmillan, price £20. ©James Dale Davidson & William Rees-Mogg, 1997. To order a copy, p5p free, call 01634 675 157.

GLOBALLY CONNECTED

BUSINESS people in the Information Age will have the world as their market.

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You will be able to talk back to your television and communicate vast amounts of data through the network provided by the television entertainment media. As the industrial-era distinction between various forms of communication breaks down and costs plunge, more and more services will bill you by time of use rather than according to the destination of your messages. Conversation or data transmission anywhere in the world will cost little more than a local call did in 1985.

You will be able to earn credits to your account with all manner of transactions and carry your phone box with you. Your PC will be the branch office of your bank and global money brokerage. And like the smart-card pay phones that are useless to thieves if broken open with a crowbar, your computer could only be raided by someone capable of breaking or manipulating a sophisticated computer code.

You will be able to transact business almost anywhere north of Antarctica. You will be able to speak, transmit data, and journey via virtual reality over borders and boundaries at will. Telephone numbers that identify the locale of the speaker by area codes are likely to be superseded by universal access numbers, which will reach the party with whom you wish to communicate anywhere on the planet.

In time, you will be able to shorten a multi-year learning process and converse in Chinese with a factory foreman in Shanghai. It will no longer matter as much that you do not speak his language or dialect. His words may be in Chinese but you will hear them roughly translated into English. He will hear your conversation in Chinese. In time, the capacity to employ instantaneous translation will significantly increase competition in regions where obstacles of

language and idiom have heretofore been significant. When that happens, it will matter little or not at all that the Chinese Government may not wish the call to be placed.

As the world grows closer together, you will have a greater opportunity than at any other time in history to customise your particular place in it. Even the information you receive on a regular basis from the media will be information of your choosing. You will be able to select news compiled and edited according to your instructions.

If the news is slow, you will access a virtual catalogue on the World Wide Web. If you see a suit that you almost like, you can adjust the width of the cuff when you place your order. It will be custom-cut and tailored to fit your body by robots in Malaysia from photographs scanned into your computer and transmitted through the Net.

You will be able to use cybermoney to make investments as well as pay for services and products. If you live in a jurisdiction like the United States that heavily regulates your investment op-

tions, you can choose to domicile your activities in a jurisdiction that permits the freedom to pursue a full range of investment options. You will be able to employ expert systems to help select your investments and cyberaccountants and cyberbookkeepers to monitor the progress of your holdings.

When you are not reviewing profit-and-loss data, you may take a virtual visit to the Louvre or download S.I. Hsiung's translation of *The Romance of the Western Chamber*. At times of your choosing, your personal communications system will read the text aloud like a bard of old. Multitasking programs will allow you to perform many functions simultaneously.

If you are inspired by your dose of the classics, you can organise a virtual corporation to market dramatic productions of famous literature for viewing through three-dimensional retinal display. Instead of being projected into the air, the images will be projected directly onto the retinas of viewers with low-energy lasers fluctuating fifty thousand times a second. This technology, already under development, will allow many persons who are legally blind to see.

THE TIMES

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STYLE

Wrap-artists. Grace Bradberry on the season's new wrap-round dress.

INTERFACE

The impact of technology on the modern marathon.

RUGBY

Leicester play Gloucester as they look to keep up their championship hopes.

ARTS

A review of the opening night of the English National Opera's controversial *The Damnation of Faust*.

Will Martin Bell follow the Master?

An Oxford don showed Tatton the way, says Anthony Howard

Bizarre as it may at first appear, the decision by the Labour and Liberal Democrat parties to wheel forward the BBC war correspondent Martin Bell — "the man in the white suit" — as their anti-sleaze candidate in Tatton is not without precedent. Allowing for the contrasting mores of a different time, nearly 60 years ago much the same thing happened in Oxford City.

In September 1938, Czechoslovakia had just been sold out to Hitler in the Munich settlement, and such was the outrage that the Labour and Liberal parties in Oxford resolved to sink their differences and rally behind a "unity" candidate to oppose the Chamberlain Government's appeasement policy. A by-election was conveniently pending in the city, and their decision was made the easier because a young fellow of All Souls, who backed the Munich agreement to the hilt, had just been chosen as the Conservative candidate.

By a quirk of fate, that Tory standard-bearer was Quintin Hogg — now, for the second time, Lord Hailsham — who at the hustings had to endure the taunt that "A vote for Hogg is a vote for Hitler". (It is only fair to add that less than two years later, in May 1940, he was one of the 40

duff choice. Lindsay was a Christian moral philosopher who knew a good deal about Plato but — unlike Martin Bell — had no claim to be a popular celebrity. He proved a hopeless candidate.

Nor were his supporters much more suited to the task in hand. In his memoirs, John Radcliffe-Maud (then a don at University College, but later an illustrious Whitehall Permanent Secretary) expressly recalled how he "hated" canvassing the landladies of Oxford and risking rejection on their doorsteps. "Our motley army of amateurs", he wrote nearly 50 years later, turned out to be "no match for the Tory machine".

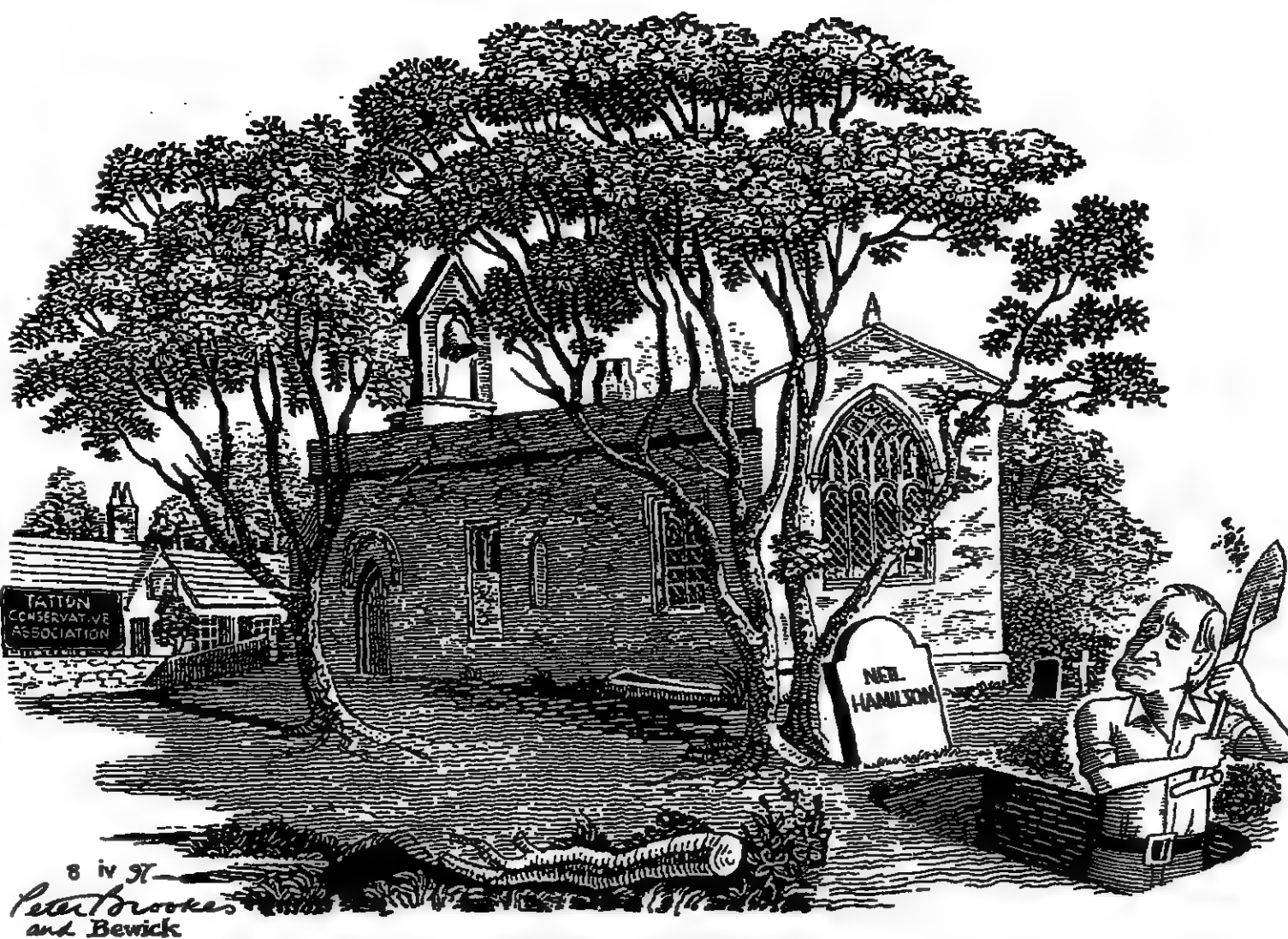
No doubt, the political caravan has since moved on — and although the Labour Party was anxious from the start to emphasise that the offer of renunciation in Tatton stemmed from its candidate, it certainly was rather more enthusiastic about blessing it than were the local Liberal Democrats. That is a sharp contrast to what happened nearly 60 years ago when the Oxford City Labour Party risked being disbanded after its mutinous act in abandoning an officially selected Labour candidate.

Of course, in those days party rules reigned supreme, and it is a measure of the changes that Tony Blair has wrought in softening the edges of Labour's "exclusive brethren" tendencies that the party rule-book should look a good deal less sacrosanct today.

Nevertheless, it is hard not to feel that the idea of a single issue candidate — especially when dressed up in the costume of "Mr Clean" — is fraught. For the record, despite the support of such Tories as Harold Macmillan, Randolph Churchill and a then young Conservative President of the Union called Edward Heath, Sandy Lindsay lost the Oxford by-election by nearly 3,500 votes. He never stood for Parliament again.

Oddly enough, it was his lack of appetite for political combat that proved his undoing. His fatal blunder was widely taken to be his public promise that if elected he would all in a day and not stand at the next election. That was thought to display a frivolous attitude towards the electorate, confirming the impression that his campaign was a gimmick.

Strikingly, three weeks later at another by-election, at Bridgewater in Somerset, a candidate much more similar to Martin Bell gave no such undertaking. He was the 1930s foreign affairs broadcaster and *New Chronicle* columnist Vernon Bartlett. He not only won the by-election by 2,312 votes, but went on to hold the seat by an almost identical majority in face of a Labour as well as a Conservative candidate at the general election of 1945. And how do they feel in Millbank Tower, one cannot help asking, about a precedent such as that?



FOR WHOM MARTIN BELL TOLLS...

New Labour is very old

Ross McKibbin says Tony Blair's party resembles that of Ramsay MacDonald

If Labour wins the coming election it will be for two reasons: because it is not the Conservative Party, and because it is not very different from the Conservative Party. Yet, while that might be a good way of winning the election, it is a terrible way of winning the next. As he approaches the election, Mr Blair has one great advantage and one great disadvantage, but at the moment he is in danger of dissipating the first and being overwhelmed by the second. The advantage is that he was elected as an old Labour MP, and remained one. He thus became leader of a party powerfully entrenched in British society, particularly in the cities, the North, Scotland and Wales: indeed, the only party to win a parliamentary majority in the three constituent parts of Great Britain since 1945, and the only one likely to do so again.

His great disadvantage is that he is fighting the election within a political system and on policies which have been designed — quite consciously — by the Tories for their benefit. Even if the unpopularity of the present Government and the traditions and residual social strength of the Labour Party yield him a majority — it does not matter whether that majority is ten or 200 — the political and ideological configuration of Margaret Thatcher's Britain will, unless he changes tack, prevent him from doing anything with it. The result is that, at the moment, New Labour, by comparison with old, is incoherent.

Old Labour had all the familiar aims of traditional social democracy: an emphasis on the collective, on equality, on a rational political discourse, on the redistribution of power and wealth, on social and economic modernisation and a sense that the nation exists only to the extent that its poorest feel part of it. New Labour has been very successful in exporting the apparent incompatibility between the programme of traditional social democracy and late-20th-century British society. The abandonment of virtually all the components of old Labour has been justified on grounds of social and economic change. Old Labour no longer "fits" contemporary Britain, but new Labour does.

This argument has two blemishes. The first is that the question of increasingly unequal distribution of power and wealth remains central to our political life. The second is that new Labour has adopted not the best but the worst of old Labour. And very

old Labour: the Labour Party under Mr Blair more closely resembles the party of Ramsay MacDonald and Philip Snowden than one kitted out for the 1990s.

The most obvious characteristic it shares with very old Labour is timidity and a wish to be thought acceptable by the existing elites. The assertion that Labour is no longer a "tax-and-spend" party, apart from writing off all postwar Labour Governments, is simply untrue. The question is who is taxed and on whom and what the money is spent. The average family now pays more in tax than in 1979; the average plutocrat very much less. The argument, explicitly made by new Labour, that "tax-and-spend" Labour Governments were "disasters" is wholly fallacious. It is seriously suggested that the non-taxing and non-spending interwar Labour Governments were less "disastrous" than those after 1945. Mr Blair's interpretation of Labour history could prove fatal, since it only confirms in the popular mind the view of the Labour Party as seen from Central Office and the tabloid press.

The deference offered to conventional opinion, as with Ramsay MacDonald's Governments, will be equally fatal. Labour, for instance, was lucky to escape the fiasco of the exchange-rate mechanism as lightly as it did. It supported the Government's foolish decision to enter the ERM at the highest rate, and had nothing to say when the inevitable happened. Had Labour won the 1992 election, we would now be wondering whether it would win any seats this year; and all because of a desire to adhere to the wisdom of the Treasury. Gordon Brown should remember that the last Labour Chancellor to be called the "Iron Chancellor" was Philip Snowden, who, while he was being lionised by the City, was leading Labour directly to the election of 1931, in which, if Mr Brown has forgotten, Labour won 52 seats.

New Labour also shares with very old Labour a fear of power and an extreme reluctance to practise legislative coercion. No political party can achieve anything without offending or coercing someone. The only people new Labour appears unafraid to offend are members of the Labour Party.

Like the Labour Party of the 1920s, new Labour has no strategy for dealing with well-placed opposition. Labour leaders apparently awake every morning terrified by what the tabloids might have to say. But we do not know how effective as managers of opinion the tabloids are. On the one occasion when a politician (Stanley Baldwin) was seriously taken down, he won hands down. What does not work is the attempt to anticipate the tabloids. It means those who do it, demoralises Labour and leads to a Dutch auction that in the long run only the Tories can win.

And the Sun's apparent decision to support Mr Blair in the election in no way undermines the force of this argument. A Labour government could tell them to get lost without too much damage, while a really determined government could go much further than that.

But new Labour is not very good either at educating the electorate or at thinking rationally. It is anxious to win and wishes to rock as few boats as possible. This, however, commits Labour to the irrationality and irresponsibility of the tabloid culture, to policies which much of the British elite know to be irrational or irresponsible but which they are too cynical or frightened to abandon. Mr Brown has landed Labour in a real impasse: underexpenditure on things which matter and overexpenditure on things which don't.

In only one respect does new Labour genuinely make up for the deficiencies of old: it is readier to undertake institutional and constitutional reform. Nowhere was old Labour's failure more disastrous than here. This presents new Labour

with a crucial opportunity which, again, is likely to be missed. Caution is unsurprising, but not the half-heartedness of the whole thing.

We are living through the rapid decay of a once viable system of the social relationships that shaped a political culture itself now played out. The institutions of State are not exempt from this decay. The Labour Party has been slower to come to terms with this than the Conservatives. Thatcherism was an authoritarian attempt to restore the old political culture. That the attempt has largely succeeded is partly due to Labour's failure to challenge it. Yet in the wreckage of the old system and in the unintended consequences of Thatcherism there is democratic potential. However, a democratic political culture cannot simply emerge: it has to be willed. This means the democratic "reformation" both of Parliament and of the electoral system. Labour is not free to treat this as though it were something for the next term, or never. It is indispensable.

At present, however, each step in new Labour's progress represents a faltering. The increasingly aggressive and mean-minded attitude to the poor and the unemployed, the hounding of teachers, the bullying attitude to schools whose failings are largely the failings of their environments, the clear reluctance to rehabilitate local education authorities (as in the opted-out schools), or even to spend more on education, are all retreats from a democratic society at a time when the possibility of such a society is greater than at any time since the 1940s.

All this might be the purest pessimism. A victorious new Labour might find the courage to take on the tabloids, might create a democratic system, might recognise that the hard-faced Judaea-Christian piety that dominates the thinking of much of the political elite is not shared by all the electorate. But there is little sign that it will. The contrast between the way Labour is approaching the 1997 election and the way it faced that of 1945 could not be more painful. This is doubly tragic. Unless a new Labour government behaves very differently, it will not only fail, but will have no second chance.

The author is a historian of the Labour Party and a fellow of St John's College, Oxford. A longer version of this article appears in the current London Review of Books.

New Labour has adopted the worst aspects of old Labour — and of very old Labour

In the can

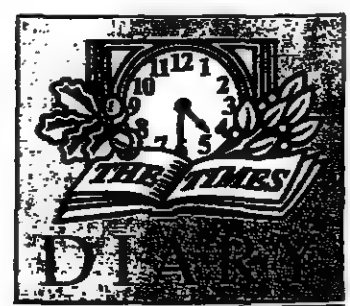
TATTON'S gain is Jill Dando's loss. *The Holiday Programme*, which Dando fronts for the BBC, has been forced to drop a package on Croatia because it is presented by the constituency's new anti-corruption candidate, Martin Bell. Bell's enthusiasm for Croatian folk-dancing, for the architectural heritage of Dubrovnik and for its silvovitz plum brandy could sway voting intentions in Tatton, argue the corporation. One BBC man talked of the potential "subliminal influence" of the new sleaze-free, independent candidate, whose skip through Croatia's tourist facilities was due to be broadcast tonight.

"When we are notified that correspondents are to stand for Parliament, they are immediately put on unpaid leave for the duration of the campaign," said a spokesman. "Anything they have done that could be deemed to be supportive of their campaign cannot be transmitted."

Suggestions that the BBC might maintain its impartiality by enlisting Neil Hamilton to present a Paris package, taking in such institutions as the Ritz, have fallen on deaf ears. Instead, viewers will be treated to a presentation by the

sleazebag writer, Monty Don, as he chases polar bears through the Canadian tundra.

● Come polling day, Camden Council will be breaking electoral law by displaying directions for their voters in Greek, Urdu, Gujarati, and even Braille. The only language other than English permitted for display in a polling station is Welsh. But the council



says: "The law is an ass as far as elections are concerned and it is about time it moved out of the 18th century."

Full span

LAST WORD on the wedding on Sunday of Alan Greenspan, the head of America's Federal Reserve, and TV reporter Andrea Mitchell. When the deed was done, Greenspan gave his new bride a long and deep chummy. "A very passionate kiss," was how one wedding guest, Al Hunt, put it. General Colin Powell, who was close by, called it "a moment of sensual exuberance — very un-Greenspanish". The groom, who wore a pin-stripe suit for the big day, is known by the new Mrs Greenspan as "sweet pea". Yesterday Greenspan himself was back on earth, report-

ing bang on time to his office, having decided that a honeymoon would be an inflationary measure.

● Missing from Wembley's Royal Box during the Coca-Cola Cup Final on Sunday was Tom Pender, the Shadow Minister for Sport. His tickets to the match were in his car at Aintree, where he had spent the previous afternoon, and he couldn't get at them in time because of the bomb scare.

Let it be

EARL SPENCER'S sin-bourning absences by the swimming pool in Cape Town's Constantia suburb are to be interrupted by a visitor more colourful than bougainvillea, splinter than an African thorn.

Kathy Lett, the Australian novelist, is shortly to embark on a book promotion tour in South Africa, and unbeknown to Spencer, she has him firmly in her sights. "I don't know where I will be staying," she says, "but I do have an introduction to Charlie, and have been told that he is very hospitable." Before offering up his shower-mat for her, Spencer should be warned of Miss Lett's crusading bent. "They are all so sexist in South Africa," she says. "I intend to knock the masculine stuffing out of them."



Ken Clarke from the blow-dry to the greased back

● The talk in Vail, Colorado, concerns the unveiling of a picture of Diana, Princess of Wales, by local artist Paddy Walker. For a frame he claims to have used the lavatory seat on which she sat during her flight with Northwest Airlines to the skiing resort two years ago. He says he nipped into the loo towards the end of the flight, saw his "frame" and made off with it.

Swept away

THERE is a touch of the Vidal Sassoon about Ken Clarke these days. For Sunday's televised debate between the Chancellor and his opposition numbers, he ap-

peared with his hair dark and slicked back, looking like the old film star Jack Hawkins. Stick him in a boiler suit and he would have looked quite the militant shop-floor strike leader.

Rewind, however, to March 18, and see how he appeared at an early election press conference: hair wisping across his forehead like desert grass, bouncy and light in texture and colour.

Either he had spent too much time in the sun — unlikely in one who prefers the stout dark of a pub — or else he had endured a losing tussle with the heena bottle in the shower.

P.H.S

There is no black hole

Privatisation isn't a moneyspinner, says Anatole Kaletsky

For once, the anonymous Tory "senior minister" had a point. "If they panic like this when they are 20 points ahead, what would happen if it was neck-and-neck?" he remarked yesterday to our Political Editor, after Tony Blair had confirmed that Labour has performed a U-turn in its policy on privatisation. Labour now seems determined to match the Tory plans to raise £1.5 billion next year by selling government assets. That Mr Blair should want to avoid exposing any Achilles' heel to the Tories' economic attacks is understandable; but in panicking so abjectly in the face of Tory claims about a "black hole" in Labour's spending plans, the party's leaders have displayed a disturbing lack of fortitude and economic understanding. This political spinelessness could prove far more dangerous to Britain than anything in the economic substance of the Tories' essentially trivial and trumped-up charges.

The fact is that there is no "black hole" in Labour's spending plans, and never has been. Gordon Brown knows this and so does Kenneth Clarke. But instead of challenging the Tories and offering a rational explanation of this admittedly rather arcane subject, Mr Brown has backed down and taken refuge in confusion — which bodes badly for his credibility with financial markets and suggests there may be many more retreats in the contests that lie ahead for him with the Treasury, the Bank of England, the unions, the Cabinet and Europe's Council of Ministers.

Since Mr Brown refuses to do so, let me explain why there is no hole in Labour's spending plans. First, Labour does not have any public spending plans for the Tories to find holes in. Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, has made it clear that he will stick to the spending targets already announced by Kenneth Clarke for this year and next. This is perfectly reasonable, if only because it is now too late to change departmental budgets for 1997-98 or to make more than a marginal impact on the plans for the following financial year.

Whether Labour can enforce the tight budgets envisaged by Mr Clarke is, of course, another matter. Mr Brown will certainly have a tough time finding off demands for higher wages and for emergency funding in the health service. But the possibility that Labour may end up bowing to pressures and spending more than the budget allowed (as the Tories themselves have done in four out of the last five years) has nothing to do with a "gap" left by abandoning privatisations. This leads to the second and more important reason why the alleged "black hole" is a canard.

Abandoning privatisations would not leave a gap in Labour's budget, because the sale of state assets does not reduce public spending. If anything, privatisation tends to increase public spending in the long term. Imagine, for example, that a government building is sold to a property company for £100 million. The offices then have to be leased back at a rising rent, starting at perhaps £5 million a year. This extra rent must be offset against the reduction in interest payments by the Treasury when the £100 million of privatisation proceeds are used to pay off a small part of the national debt. This interest reduction would currently be around £7.5 million — resulting in a small net saving of £1.5 million a year to the Exchequer. But eventually the rising rent on the office building would probably overtake the £7.5 million in reduced interest costs, resulting in a higher level of total public spending in the long term.

Privatisation does not even provide money that can fund tax cuts or pay for public spending programmes. This is a lesson that British politicians, investors and voters should have learnt from the Lawson boom and Major bust, when the vast proceeds from selling profitable state industries were used to support current spending, with disastrous results — first by Nigel Lawson, to finance his inflationary tax cuts, and then by Mr Major, to pay for the public spending binge of our period in the exchange-rate mechanism.

The City has drawn the appropriate lessons, and no longer views privatisation proceeds as a form of "negative public spending". Instead, privatisation is recognised for what it is: an exchange of financial paper which may or may not be preferable to selling government bonds, depending on the precise arrangements made for managing the assets sold. The Treasury, to its credit, is also increasingly taking this view. Influenced partly by the Maastricht treaty, which ignores the quirky British definition of public sector borrowing, Treasury policy now rightly focuses on the government financial deficit — a figure which treats privatisation in exactly the same way as an increase in public borrowing.

Privatisation is often a good idea if it results in more efficient management of state assets. But the merits of privatisation are all about the quality of management. They have nothing to do with reducing public spending, paying for tax cuts or plugging black holes.



EURO OR BUST

The next Prime Minister faces the worst of both worlds

The world will not wait for British general election campaigns. While the party leaders spent the weekend pronouncing on their relative undeservedness of public trust, European Union finance ministers met in Noordwijk, The Netherlands. That agenda was dominated by detailed issues of how the single currency would be implemented. Those conclusions will prove vital to the nature of monetary union. This issue will overshadow the politics of the next Parliament regardless of who holds power or whether this country participates in it.

The most significant aspect of the meeting was not the communiqué but the comments afterwards from Theo Waigel, Germany's finance minister. It has looked increasingly likely that his country will overshoot the official public borrowing figure — no more than 3 per cent of gross domestic product — and hence fail to meet the convergence criteria of the Maastricht treaty. Until now Bonn has been in the vanguard of upholding those rules. On Sunday night Herr Waigel declared that he had "never nailed myself to the cross of 3 per cent". The clear implication of those remarks is that Germany expects to be included in monetary union from the outset, even if its economic performance has not satisfied the formal requirements.

Germany has shifted its stance because it fears that the alternative to a selective fudge of the convergence criteria is a delay in launching the euro. Any alteration of the original timetable, Chancellor Kohl believes, might lead to the collapse of the whole enterprise. Germany would prefer to meet the Maastricht conditions but if it cannot, then it will argue that special circumstances — the unique costs of unification — should be considered in its favour. To offset such short-term difficulties, Bonn has succeeded in strengthening the sanctions that will apply to countries inside the single currency that exercise poor fiscal management.

The end result is that the euro is now more

probable but less plausible. If Germany is permitted a margin for error on its budget deficit, and France continues to engage, unobstructed, in creative accounting, then the rules as redefined will be met and the euro initiated on time. It will inspire less credibility as a consequence. Unification certainly has brought extra costs to Bonn and there is no special significance attached to a particular deficit figure. Once, however, one "special exemption" is acknowledged it will become harder to resist other pleas. A stronger stability pact will inspire little confidence if the single currency starts life as the creature of political convenience.

All of this should make Europe even more salient to the electorate. John Major and Tony Blair have each claimed that the single currency is unlikely to emerge on schedule and thus there is no need for an immediate decision. That is clearly not the case. Both parties have suggested that there is uncertainty about the character of monetary union. That is also far less true. There are few reasons of fact rather than faction which would now prevent a party from fully declaring its position. Robin Cook's sceptical comments about EMU entry in the next Parliament, apparently authorised by Tony Blair, have all but eliminated the remaining space between Labour and the Conservatives. This still leaves an ambiguity gap between politicians and public.

Whether or not Britain enters a single currency is only part of the picture the next Prime Minister will face. Britain will hold the EU presidency in May 1998 when final judgment must be made on which countries are qualified for monetary union. That meeting will either endorse a selective fudge or uphold the original conditions. It is a choice that could shape Europe's economy for decades. Chancellor Kohl has decided that it is the euro in 1999 or bust. The most important challenge facing John Major or Tony Blair is to ensure it is not both.

THE PRICE OF LOYALTY

Tatton Conservatives look set to discredit themselves

The tradition of local autonomy in the Conservative Party is a noble one. But it is a freedom that brings with it responsibilities. Tonight the whole country will be watching to see whether the Tory association in Tatton is prepared to exercise those responsibilities in its own interests and the interests of the party to which it belongs.

Loyal supporters of Neil Hamilton cannot relish the limelight that has been shown upon themselves, their candidate and their constituency. But it is the actions of their candidate, and their blind attachment to him, that have brought this problem upon them. If they hoped that, after the first few days of the campaign, the issue of "sleaze" would go away, they were wrong.

Now that Martin Bell, the BBC war correspondent, has announced his intention to stand on an "anti-corruption" slate in the place of the Labour and Liberal Democrat candidates, Mr Hamilton's misdemeanours are once more in the headlines. But Tatton's Tory candidate is shameless in his refusal to be embarrassed either about his own position or the effect of this affair on his party at large. He seems determined to brazen it out. So, if he will not fall on his sword, he will have to be pushed.

Yet most members of his association are doing their best to ensure that this does not happen. They take Mr Hamilton's protestations of innocence at face value. They ignore the revelations of his self-incriminating evidence to Sir Gordon Downey, or dismiss them as no more than the propaganda of a left-wing media campaign. They seem determined not to hold a secret ballot

tonight, even though this practice is now the universally accepted method of taking democratic decisions.

This newspaper has argued that Mr Hamilton should stand down. We are not part of an orchestrated left-wing conspiracy. We merely believe that, on the basis of what Mr Hamilton has already admitted, he no longer deserves to be a Member of Parliament. Others in a similar position have done the decent thing and resigned. Mr Hamilton should not be allowed to profit from his lack of shame. Those activists who still revere Mr Hamilton may have deliberately shielded themselves from the evidence of his wrongdoings. Once they start knocking on doors in Tatton, they will discover how many stalwart Tories are unwilling to support Mr Hamilton. These voters may well turn to Mr Bell instead.

The result could be worse than the loss of a safe Conservative seat to an independent. If Mr Hamilton is allowed to fight on, the national electorate will be reminded for the rest of the campaign that the Tories are the party accused of sleaze. What better ammunition could Labour have to support its best argument — that it is time for a change?

We do not want to believe that the Tatton Conservative Association is filled with blind loyalists whose political judgment reflects only the force of Mr Hamilton's personality. If they adopt him tonight, however, that will be the conclusion that we, and most of the rest of the country, will be forced to reach. Loyalty may in the past have been the Tories' secret weapon; it is about to inflict on the party a grievous wound.

NATIONAL DAY

Democracy was the real winner at Aintree

It did not matter whether it was done well, all that mattered was that it was done at all. Yesterday's running of the one hundred and fiftieth Grand National did not, could not, recapture the festive air that was lost on Saturday with two rasped codewords. Yet as a celebration of stoicism and *sang froid*, as well as a rebuff to the republicans, it was worth all the effort. The IRA may have been able to ruin the weekend for tens of thousands with a coward's call. But what they disrupted they could not destroy. The presence of the Princess Royal and thousands of other racegoers was a defiant rejoinder to the republicans' cynicism. The sacrifices made by Liverpool's police and people meant the race could be run and the punters, crumpled but unbowed, could enjoy the bittersweet pleasure of enriching the bookmakers while knowing that the day's real winner was democracy.

The Englishman's diary is a sporting almanac. His seasons are marked by the subtle changes from flat to steeplechase and from pink pitch to square as much as those from pink blossom to green leaf then gold. In the calendar certain dates are sacred. From the Boat Race through the FA Cup Final to Wimbledon the sporting year has its rhythm, as traditional yet compelling as the progress of thoroughbred over fence.

Some of the occasions, Henley perhaps or Ascot, have an exclusive air about them but others earn a place in the diaries of all. The Grand National, like the Derby but with more drama, is pre-eminently such a day. By striking at one of the most democratic

festivals of the sporting season the IRA were not aiming a blow at the British Establishment which they mistakenly fantasise is their oppressor, but at the innocent citizens of all these islands.

Their own countrymen, as much as anyone, will have grieved to see the race cancelled and delighted to see it revived. Despite the efforts of extremists and a history of misunderstanding far more unites than divides the Irish and the English. Not the least of the ties that still bind is the appreciation of bloodstock and the attraction of betting. Shared perceptions of rural Ireland and England at their most idyllic and intertwined come from the saddle, whether of Somerville and Ross or Surtees and Trollope. The presence of so many Irish, as jockeys, trainers or punters at yesterday's race was more eloquent of the true state of relations between the peoples on either side of the Irish Sea than any IRA statement.

The quiet victory of normality in the face of severe testing was particularly happily embodied by Tony Dobbin's triumph on Lord Gyllene. A horse that has suffered more than its share of knocks shook off past injuries to give the audience, at Aintree and beyond, a handsome finish. There will have been more losers than winners among the weary racegoers who returned home last night. But all those who saw their betting slips turn worthless in their hands should console themselves with the knowledge that, even more than with any lottery flutter, their gamble played a small part in safeguarding our heritage and securing our future.

Jews in Jerusalem and Arab boycott

From the Director of the Britain Israel Public Affairs Centre

Sir, Sir Cyril Townsend's assertion (letter, April 3) that the Jewish population of Jerusalem grew "from zero to around 170,000" since 1967 requires correction.

In 1870 the population was 22,000, of whom 11,000 were Jews, 6,500 Muslims and 4,500 Christians. Since at least 1875 Jews have constituted an absolute majority. In 1967 74.2 per cent were Jews and 25.8 per cent Arabs. Today, the total population is 560,000, of whom 405,000 are Jews and 155,000 Muslims or Christian Arabs.

Sir Cyril's reference to "zero" Jewish population presumably relates to the period 1948-67, when Jerusalem was ruled by Jordan and all Jewish residents of the eastern sector were forcibly expelled.

When Jerusalem returned to Jewish control in 1967, Jews rebuilt their homes in the Old City (which, along with all their synagogues, had been destroyed) and other areas where they had lived.

In the construction in Har Homa 75 per cent of the land that was legally expropriated by the Israeli Government had been in Jewish ownership.

Sir Cyril is correct, however, in his assertion that "every Israeli Government since 1967 has declared that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel". It is, and always has been, at the centre of Jewish spiritual and physical longing.

Yours sincerely,
HELEN DAVIS,
Director,
Britain Israel Public Affairs Centre,
Drayton House,
30 Gordon Street, WC1.
April 3.

From the Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Group for Israel

Sir, The resolution of 22 Arab foreign ministers in Cairo to halt the process of normalisation with Israel and restate the Arab League-sponsored primary boycott represented a self-defeating policy. Your editorial, "Shameful isolation" (April 1), was therefore as timely as it was welcome.

If implemented, such measures would impact negatively on many of the states that previously were sufficiently emboldened by the new climate to have the courage to establish trade links with Israel. They commenced this trade not as a reward for the peace process but correctly out of profound economic self-interest.

The Arab world generally has much to gain from Israel's high-tech industries and know-how. Israel in turn can gain much from the skills and resources of the countries around it.

Trade is an essential glue of good relations between states and the British Government, no less than the British business community, should be in the vanguard of promoting that ideal in the Middle East.

British companies trading with Israel and the countries surrounding it should understand that the resolution in Cairo is not directed at or applicable to them. It is an area where British companies are expanding. They should be encouraged to make greater efforts now, when tensions are high and morale may be low, than when the peace process moves to a more robust and warmer phase, the dividends to these companies could be enormous.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW STONE,
Chairman,
British Overseas Trade Group for Israel,
PO Box 2283,
Accrington House, 44 Baker Street, W1.
April 3.

Tax self-assessment

From Mr Paul Cartier

Sir, The Institute of Chartered Accountants (ICA) seems to be trying to frighten members of the public into unnecessarily engaging an accountant to assist with the completion of their self-assessed tax returns (report, April 5; see also Weekend Money, same day).

Most returns will be relatively simple to calculate and will involve little extra effort beyond supplying the information which had to be provided in any case under the old system. Indeed, for the first time at least, one has the option of performing the calculations oneself or allowing the tax inspector to do so. I do not believe, despite what we are told about the level of numeracy in this country, that some simple arithmetic is beyond the scope of the average individual.

Surely most people already calculate their tax liability themselves without difficulty from the data on their returns as an independent check on the tax inspector, as I have always done? I believe that organisations such as the Advertising Standards Authority and the Consumers Association have quite rightly criticised the use of scare-mongering material to sell products such as burglar alarms, and I do not see why the ICA should be allowed to get away with this tactic.

I should add that I am in no way connected with the Inland Revenue. Neither, as you may have guessed, am I an accountant.

Yours faithfully,
P. C. CARTIER,
24 Beaumont Park,
Danbury, Chelmsford, Essex.
April 7.

Power, 'paranoia' and Freemasons

From the Grand Secretary of the United Grand Lodge of England

Sir, It would have been pleasant if Patrick Stevens ("On the square, but are they on the level?", Law, April 1; see also letters, April 3) had stuck to facts about Freemasonry. He was kind enough to record that he has "never come across any direct evidence of Masons using their connections improperly", but that did not prevent him from garish his article with hearsay and innuendo, or from repeating the old basic misconception that Freemasons have no purpose other than furthering the interests of other Freemasons.

Every Freemason knows from before he becomes a member of a lodge that he must not use his membership to promote his own or anyone else's business, professional or personal interests. He is reminded of it again and again in his early Masonic life, and he knows that if he breaks the rule he may be suspended from his lodge or even expelled from Freemasonry.

This underlying fact of Masonic life is entirely compatible with the obligations of anyone involved in the law, and for anyone to suggest that the judges, magistrates, police officers and lawyers who are Freemasons are bound to forsake their public duty to impugn their integrity. They, and Freemasons in every other walk of life, know that obedience to the law and loyalty to the organisation they work for take priority over any inclination to help their friends.

Mr Stevens's instances and his conclusion echo the Home Affairs Committee's recent report, which for most of its 56 paragraphs approves of Grand Lodge's efforts to encourage Freemasons to be more open about

their membership and to help authorities investigate serious allegations that Masonic connections have been misused.

The committee's final paragraph alleges that Freemasonry is a secret society and that one of its aims is the advancement of its member's interests. This paragraph does not follow the facts in the committee's report, and does much to perpetuate the unjustified paranoia about Freemasonry which it observes is a factor in the public's perception. Its recommendation about registration of a spare-time interest by a minority group imperils the right in a free society to join or be a member of a lawful association — a most shocking implication for personal liberty in this country.

Freemasons' spending on charity (over £13 million last year) comes from the pockets of Freemasons (and their families and friends); we do not ask the general public to contribute to our funds. If Mr Stevens does not notice our community buses or our donations to hospices and other charitable concerns, it may be because good news does not sell newspapers.

Mr Stevens's allegation that "the religious and moral basis of Freemasonry is slight" is quite unfounded. Our first and continuing requirement is that Freemasons should believe in God, and all the message of our ceremonies underline the fact that Freemasonry is concerned with moral and spiritual values.

Yours sincerely,
M. B. S. HIGHAM,
Grand Secretary,
United Grand Lodge of England,
Freemasons' Hall,
Great Queen Street, WC2.
April 7.

Bomb hoaxes

From Mr B. C. J. Warnes

Sir, How I agree with your correspondent, Mr Kenneth Hoole, today about war-time bombing. The authorities, for understandable reasons, may be trying to over-protect us. There should be an announcement that bombs may be present — eg, on a motorway or at a sporting event. Give those who want to leave time to clear, and ensure firmly the rest know they continue to use the area "at their own risk".

Leave it to the individual's best judgment, which is usually the most inwardly satisfying (and least patronising) in the long run, anyway. And of course this completely defeats terrorist strategy.

Yours sincerely,
BRIAN WARNES,
The Coach House,
50a Blackheath Park, SE3.
April 7.

From Mr John Kenny

Sir, What is the answer, asks Mr Hoole, to the problem of bomb hoaxes? Is there not some possibility of forming an independent team of experienced risk assessors to take responsibility for sifting out credible bomb threats from those which are simply malicious?

It is quite understandable that those entrusted locally with the safety of large crowds will not take any chances of being blamed for deaths or injuries and will thus be ultra-cautious in their actions. But if large-scale road diversions, railway closures and the evacuation of premises are to take place every time a bomb threat is received by people inexperienced in differentiating the bogus from the real, then this country will swiftly grind to a halt.

A far better balance clearly needs to be struck between the need to protect the public from terrorist attack and the need to ensure the public's right to travel and speculate in comfort.

Sincerely yours,
JOHN KENNY,
35 Beaumont Road, SW19.
April 7.

Last charge

From Mr John Lockwood

Sir, A number of claims have been made in your columns (letters, March 31, April 5) over what is generally considered to be the last cavalry charge mounted by the British Army. I have no doubt myself that the last took place in Syria on June 12, 1941.

The Queen's Own Yorkshire Dragoons, together with the Cheshire Yeomanry, were ordered to clear Vichy French from a hilltop at Soueida. It was decided that a charge was the only way to seize the objective and a thousand men thundered across a plain to drive out the Vichy French.

It is not an occasion I am likely to forget since, as a Farrier Sergeant serving in "C" Squadron of the Dragoons, I took part in that charge. Miraculously, although we were fired on by the French, there were no deaths and casualties to both men and horses were light. But a charge is most certainly was.

Next Thursday, April 10, 31 of us who took part in the charge, including the "C" Company Squadron Commander, Simon Green, who went on to command the Yeomanry, will attend our annual reunion in Doncaster. We will have no doubts about the date of the last cavalry charge by the British Army.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LOCKWOOD,
The Haven, Broad Oak,
West Hill, Ottery St Mary, Devon.

Role models and the gender gap

From Mr W. J. Woodward

Sir, John O'Leary ("Boys, it's a chronic decline of phonics", Education, April 4) reported on Dr Bonnie Macmillan's intriguing theory about the root cause of the growing gender gap in educational performance. Both seem to start from the position that, in Mr O'Leary's words, "Young girls have always done better than boys, mainly, it is thought, because they mature more quickly". Dr Macmillan now attributes boys' increasing failure to catch up with an under-use of phonics since the 1980s.

There is a more alarming possibility and one which, if valid, would take much longer to correct. Since the mid-1980s there have been more than ten times as many women as men entering the teaching profession in the primary sector and more than twice as many in the secondary sector. This contrasts with the mid-1960s, when there were more men teachers than women in the secondary sector, albeit three times as many women than men in the primary sector.

Could it be that only recently has the secondary sector provided predominantly female role models, whereas the primary sector has always so provided? This might explain not only the current failure of boys to close the gender gap but also its initial existence.

Yours etc,
W. J. WOODWARD,
Kandian, High Easter Road,
Leaden Roding, Dunmow, Essex.
April 4.

From Dr Julia Matthews

Sir, It is probably the innate desire to please, rather than an ear for phonics, that gives little girls a headstart for reading. Learning to read requires hard work on the part of teachers and pupils and phonics is only one of the several skills needed.

Motivation, interesting material and individual attention in the early stages are all contributory factors. Smaller classes when starting school would help to prevent the boys from slipping through the net.

Yours sincerely,
JULIA MATTHEWS,
50 Sydney Road,
Bexleyheath, Kent.
April 4.

Darrens and Deans

From Mr Arthur Tanner

Sir, Your report "Darrens and Deans are 'born to fail at school'" (April 2) reminded me of my experience when I was head of department in a boys' comprehensive school in the early 1980s.

Our practice was to "set" new pupils by an ability test, but only after they had had half a term to settle in. So in September at the beginning of term each year I put all of them into mixed ability groups.

One year, out of interest, I put the Edwards, Charles and James into set A, the Marks and Johns into sets B and C and the Darrens and Deans into set D (the sets, of course, were not called by these letters).

Alas, very few changes had to be made after the boys were tested at the end of October.

Had extra resources been put into teaching the Darrens and Deans to read at the age of five — if need be at the expense of secondary schools' budgets — the picture might just have been different.

Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR TANNER,
69 Barton Road,
Thurston, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.
April 2.

Quick off the mark

From Mr Jonathan Izzard

Sir, I have great sympathy with Nigella Lawson waiting for her daughter to reach the Barbie phase (article, April 2). I have anticipated my son's desire for a Scalectrix set and various accessories and have bought one ready for him. I anticipate his birth within the next three years.

Yours faithfully,
J. IZZARD,
7 Dzunlin Close,
Kingswinford, West Midlands.
April 2.

Due recognition

From Sir William van Straubenzee

Sir, The practice seems to be growing of conferring the title "Emeritus" on those retiring from posts of distinction. Professors Emeritus proliferate. Deans do it, seemingly automatically, though I have yet to see it bestowed on a bishop.

A substantial number of Members of Parliament are retiring at the forthcoming general election. Would it therefore not be an appropriate moment to institute the title "MP Emeritus"? It would, I suggest, be restricted to those who have served for 25 years or more and who retire of their own accord.

All I ask is that the practice be not made retrospective.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM VAN STRAUBENZEE
(Conservative MP for Wokingham, 1959-87),
36 Ebury Street, SW1.
April 4.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

OBITUARIES

CAPTAIN NICHOLAS BARKER



Captain Nicholas Barker, CBE, Captain of HMS *Endurance*, 1980-82, died of cancer yesterday aged 63. He was born on May 19, 1933.

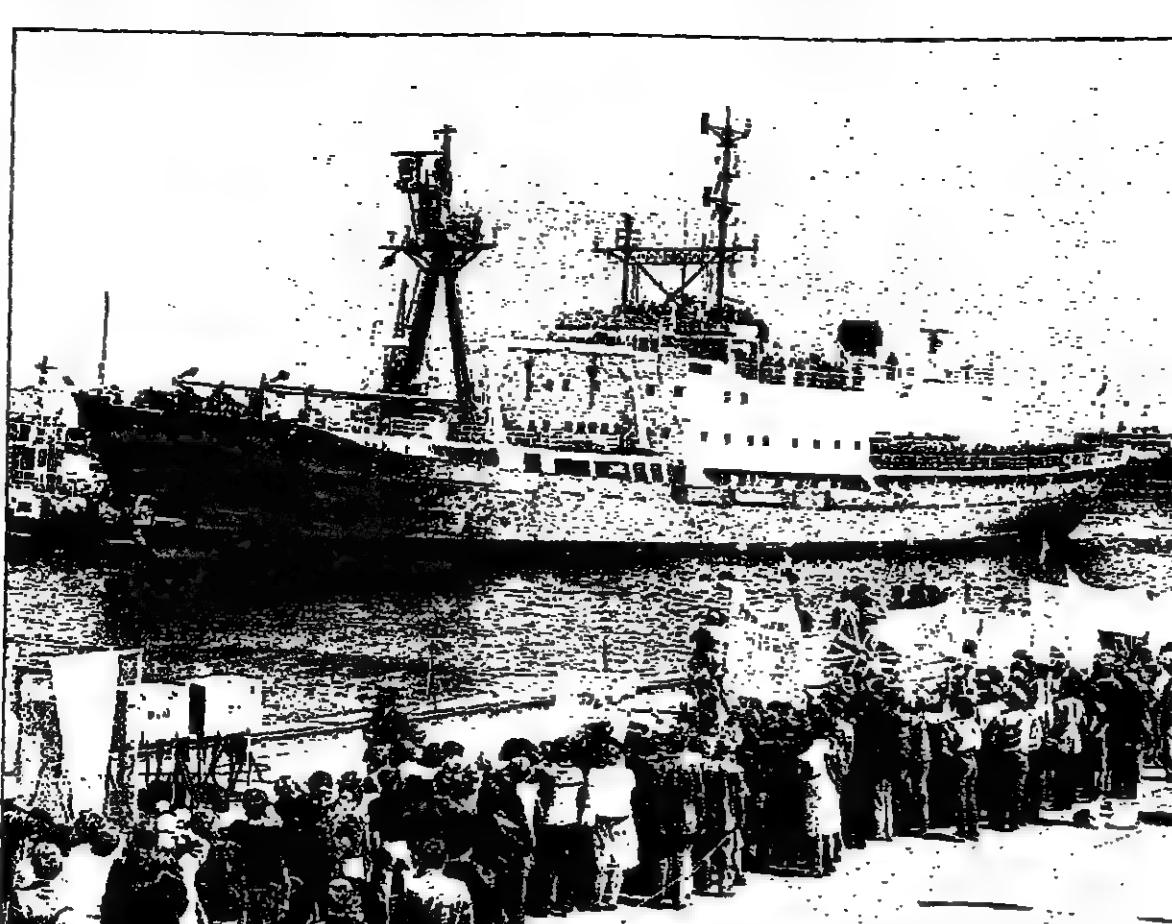
AS THE only naval vessel in the South Atlantic at the time of the Argentine invasion of Leith in South Georgia and the ensuing invasion of the Falkland Islands in the spring of 1982, the Antarctic ice patrol ship HMS *Endurance* was very much in the lion's mouth.

Although of limited military value, *Endurance* was a token of British commitment and a political pawn of some significance. The widely publicised decision by the British Government to withdraw her from the South Atlantic at that time must have indicated to the Argentine military dictatorship yet another weakening of British resolve over the Falklands.

Always vulnerable to defence cuts, *Endurance* had been reprimed in 1976 when the research ship *Shackleton* was fired on by an Argentine frigate and again in 1977 when her helicopter discovered a small military presence on the British dependency of Southern Thule. These and other incidents, including intelligence reports, had signalled a certain change, a hardening of Argentine attitudes, but, in an act of remarkable political insensitivity, the 1981 Defence Review decided to end her employment.

As her captain from 1980, Nick Barker willingly became immersed in the strong historic tradition of the Royal Navy's enthusiasm for the Antarctic, a tradition which runs from Cook through Ross to Scott. Joining forces with those lobbying bodies that have an interest in Antarctica and who wanted to preserve the naval presence, he worked outside the conventional chain of command and made quite a nuisance of himself in the corridors of Whitehall.

It was, possibly, memories of this robust politicking that caused officials to undervalue some of his perceptive appreciations of the various clues concerning Argentine intentions that were signalled back from the South



Captain Barker, left, and the ice patrol ship *Endurance* returning to Chatham after the Falklands campaign

Atlantic during the build-up to the invasion. *Endurance*, with 22 Royal Marines on board, was originally dispatched to remove a party of Argentine scrap-metal merchants from Leith in South Georgia, but this operation was abandoned when the Argentine ship *Bahia Paraíso* turned up with over a hundred armed Marines led by the notorious Lieutenant Alfredo Astiz.

Nick Barker recalled: "On March 31 I realised things were coming to a head... *Endurance* was hiding in the entrance to Cumberland Bay, not showing a chink of light, we were prepared to fight, but [the C-in-C] ordered us back to Stanley [in the Falklands]. Much delayed by a gale, I was very agitated; I realised the Argentine landing in the Falklands might find us half-way and unable to help at either place. My last contact with Rex Hunt [the Governor] was on the night of 1/2 April; he wished us the best of British luck. As far as I knew, the nearest British naval vessel was at Gibraltar. We knew there were at least four Argentine warships at sea."

With only two 20 millimetre Oerlikon guns, *Endurance* was perhaps fortunate to arrive back at South Georgia too late to help the 22 Royal Marines who defended Grytviken stoutly before surrendering, having been ordered to minimise casualties. She then had to lose herself until elements of the Task Force arrived on April 14 to retake South Georgia as the first step in the War Cabinet's strategy of escalation.

Operation Paraquet, as it was called, nearly became a disaster thanks to extreme weather and cold, but an added bonus to the surrender of Lieutenant Astiz's force under a hail of naval gunfire was the elimination of the submarine *Santa Fe*. Discovered on the surface and unable to dive because of missile hits and fear of air-dropped torpedoes, *Santa Fe* was captured in a damaged state off Grytviken. It was one of the *Endurance*'s Wasp helicopters that fired the first Royal Navy missile from a helicopter in wartime.

After her action in protecting South Georgia, it was fitting that *Endurance*, with the frigate *Yarmouth*, should finally end the conflict by taking the surrender of the Argentine garrison in Southern Thule. Barker was appointed CBE.

Nicholas John Barker was always very proud of his father, Lieutenant-Commander John Barker, who was killed in action in June 1940. In command of the destroyer *Ardent*, he had made a gallant but forlorn attack on the German battleships *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* in an attempt to protect the carrier *Glorious* from destruction towards the end of the ill-fated Norwegian campaign.

Orphaned in 1943 when his mother died, Barker was brought up by his grandfather, a retired naval captain. Educated at Canford and joining the navy through National Service in 1951, Barker had no less than eight seagoing commands, including, prior to *Endurance*, the frigate *Arrow* and subse-

quently the modern guided missile frigate *Sheffield* as well as the Fishery Protection Squadron. Those who predicted that his outspoken nature and flamboyant style — one Falklands campaign historian described him as "courteous and with the look of a prosperous businessman" — would dish his chances, were clearly wrong.

Rejoining in 1988, Barker read for a Defence Fellowship at Churchill College, Cambridge, and then took up a host of activities connected with the sea, founding and chairing North European Marine Services and chairing the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen. He was a council member of the British Maritime Foundation, was made a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society in 1982, a freeman of the City of London in 1986, and was elected a Younger Brother of Trinity House. In March this year he was appointed Deputy Lieutenant of the county of Tyne and Wear.

His account of the Falklands War, *The Falklands, A Common Denominator*, was published in 1984 and a successful novel, *Red Ice*, in 1987. These were followed shortly before he died by a well-received account of his difficult relationships with the Ministry of Defence and his views of the prosecution of the Falklands War entitled *Beyond Endurance: an epic of Whitehall and the South Atlantic*.

His first marriage in 1957, to Elizabeth Redman was dissolved in 1989; he is survived by his second wife Jennifer and the two sons and two daughters from his first marriage.

ROBERTO SÁNCHEZ VILELLA

Roberto Sánchez Vilella, former Governor of Puerto Rico, died on March 25 aged 84. He was born in 1913.

ONE of the founders of modern Puerto Rico, Roberto Sánchez Vilella was the second elected governor of the island. He worked for the increasing autonomy of Puerto Rico and wanted it to become a sovereign state, enjoying an association with the United States along similar lines to that which the Dominions used to enjoy with Britain.

But Sánchez was a sombre technocrat by nature. A taciturn pipe-smoker with thick horn-rimmed spectacles, he appeared — when compared to his ebullient and charismatic predecessor — a colourless, though extremely efficient, administrator. His only passions outside politics were horse racing and dominoes. Puerto Ricans were stunned, therefore, when at the age of 55, he suddenly announced that he was leaving his wife of more than 30 years, to marry a beautiful mulatto girl many years his junior. If his marriage to his staff assistant added colour to his personal life, it left his political career in a shambles.

A native of Mayagüez, Roberto Sánchez Vilella was the son of a Speaker of the Puerto Rican House of Representatives. He was politicised from an early age and was always to remember witnessing the 1937 police massacre of members of a peaceful demonstration of the Nationalist Party on Easter Sunday. He testified against the police which led his father to denounce them as murderers in the House of Representatives.

Sánchez, however, decided at first not to follow in his father's footsteps. Spurring politics, he went to Ohio State University to study civil engineering and on graduating was offered a job by the Tennessee Valley Authority. It was Luis Muñoz Marín, later to become the first Governor of Puerto Rico, who persuaded him not to accept this offer but to return to his home island instead. He was at the right hand of Muñoz when he was organising the foundation of the Popular Democratic Party (PDP) which was to enjoy power in Puerto Rico for 30 years.

Deeply involved in every Muñoz initiative, including the much vaunted "Operation Bootstrap" which transformed the island from an almost



Roberto Sánchez Vilella with Jeannette Ramos Buonomo shortly after their marriage

feudal agricultural society into a modern industrial state, he became chief of staff when Muñoz was elected governor in 1948. When Puerto Rico gained full commonwealth status in 1952, Sánchez served simultaneously as Secretary of State and Secretary of Public Works.

Though he was a notable contrast to the gregarious and emotional Muñoz, Sánchez was Muñoz's choice as his successor as Governor in 1964. He won the election with 60 per cent of the vote, inaugurating his campaign with the slogan "New People, New Ideas and a New Style".

However, despite his skill as an administrator, he did not have a strong political base of his own. Dissident politicians undercut him by forming rival factions. Yet if there were doubts that he could win the next election, it was Sánchez himself who ensured that he would lose it. He outraged the largely Roman Catholic electorate by divorcing his wife and marrying his 35-year-old staff assistant, Jeannette Ramos. And, on top of everything else, she was a mulatto woman, a racial aspect which caused considerable affront to the stiffer upper reaches of Puerto Rican society.

In the midst of the scandal, however, Sánchez clung to office. Although he said at first that he would not stand for re-election — a decision of which Muñoz approved — he then snatched the voters a second time by changing his mind and founding a new party, the People's Party, under the slogan "Let the People Decide".

In the event, the people decided they did not want him and he lost the 1968 election, although in standing he pulled enough votes away from the PDP to take that party's candidate down with him. Muñoz was never ready to forgive him and, despite their once having been the closest of colleagues, the *frontrunners* between them lasted until shortly before Muñoz's death in 1980.

Sánchez retired from politics to become a university professor of public administration and a political analyst for radio and television. He also resumed his love affair with horse-racing, something he had sacrificed in order to become a politician. His second wife later divorced him.

He is survived by both his former wives, and by a daughter from his first marriage and a daughter and son from the second.

PERSONAL COLUMN

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

DEPARTURES on 8th April
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Fresh start for vintage factories and mills

By BRIAN COLLETT

SHOPS, small textile producers and a restaurant are now trading from a huge cotton mill in Preston, Lancashire. The local museum and part of the town college have moved in, too, and a marketing suite is soon to be added.

The project, at the 106-year-old Centenary Mill, is the first in a series in the Community campaign inspired by the Prince of Wales. The campaign aims to preserve dilapidated mills and factories of architectural merit, many of Industrial Revolution vintage, and put them to business and social use, revitalising economically deprived areas in the process.

The Prince had found buildings threatened with demolition throughout Britain and asked Business in the Community to consider ways of restoring them and getting them back to work. The group has responded with the Regeneration through Heritage campaign and will use six buildings, including the Centenary Mill, in a pilot scheme. It will help community bodies to find guidance on restoration and work with them on business plans for the enterprises that will use the space.

Fred Taggart, the campaign's director, is trying to recruit large manufacturers to play a part. "We would like the big boys to help the small producers," he said.

Single regeneration budget funds have been injected and National Lottery money will be allocated. The revival plans are approved by its heritage fund. The campaign is being overseen by conservation and regeneration specialists, including representatives of English Heritage.

Restoration of craft puts gilding back in the frame

By DAVID ASKHAM

CLAIRE TIMINGS practises the ancient craft of gilding, that is, meeting the demands of the art world for restoration and for beautifying new items of craftwork. She is one of a new generation of gilders who trained at the City and Guilds of London Art School, in woodcarving and gilding. She works in a Dorset village in an 18th-century former thatched village butcher's shop, which had lain empty for some time, awaiting the arrival of an enterprising new business.

Embellishing shaped wooden objects with gold can be traced back to 1500 BC and the embalming of Egyptian pharaohs. In the Middle Ages and later, gilding flourished in manuscript illumination, panel painting and the decoration of furniture and picture frames. Wars probably accounted for its decline as an art form. However, the craft is now very much alive.

Picture frames are generally made of stable pine, which is shaped and given a smooth finish before gilding commences. Claire's tools include a gilding knife, various brushes for settling the gold leaf, a wetting brush and a special brush called a tip which is used to lay the gold leaf on to the work. A gate-tipped tool, often in the shape of a dog's tooth, is used for burnishing the gold, which is done selectively to contrast with the matt finish and to enhance the shape of the piece.

Most of Mrs Timings's work is the conservation of old picture frames or period furniture from museums and art galleries. The rest is for private individuals and



Claire Timings, one of a new generation, works on a picture frame

includes commissions for new work. Occasionally, she uses a high-power, stereoscopic microscope to examine layers of old gilding or alternative finishes, the finely focused fibre-optic illumination helping her to unravel tell-tale signs of earlier restoration.

This skilled detective work is written up as a report for her client.

The extent of restoration is decided, and thereby the cost, which can vary widely depending on the amount of evident damage and previous unsatisfactory restoration attempts that require remedial treatment.

Mrs Timings's skills become known to conservators because her workshop is listed in the database

maintained by the Conservation Unit, part of the Museums and Galleries Commission. This list of specialist conservators and restorers is accessible to the public and institutions. Typically she works for private customers, architects, the Area Museum Council for the South West and the Diocesan Church Council.

Last year she helped with the restoration of Uppark House, the badly fire-damaged National Trust property. Her contribution was the conservation and restoration of the gilding on six candle sconces. That assignment was sub-contracted to her by St Blaise, a local company that specialises in the conservation of fine buildings and their interiors. She has recently been conserving a large frame for an exhibition of pictures by Evelyn de Morgan.

At the other end of the gilding spectrum, several weathercocks and vanes have been referred to her. She said: "They look wonderful when returned to their intended brilliance."

Another interesting project this year has been the gilding of elements of an ironwork decorative arch for the Goldsmiths' Hall in London. The arch was made by metalwork apprentices working under the supervision of Paul Allan, tutor at the Rural Development Commission's training workshops in Salisbury.

Mrs Timings works as a part-time consultant to the Rural Development Commission in Salisbury and tutors advanced courses in gilding. She feels greater use should be made of this valuable training facility, which is repeatedly threatened with closure.

Mrs Timings can be contacted on 01935 83267.

Business group in talks to clip the wings of the phoenix

By BRIAN COLLETT

TIGHTER controls on directors who milk their creditors, shut down their company and move on to repeat the process elsewhere are being sought by CCN, the business services group.

CCN was alarmed that, of the 2.6 million people on its directors' database, 3,229 men and 455 women had had more than ten failures each. Altogether more than 300,000 serial failure directors appear on the database.

David Coates, the managing director, said: "Many company failures are the result of unfortunate economic and trading conditions, and few lenders would regard association with just one failed company as a sign of dishonesty or incompetence."

"The real problem is the serial failure who goes from one failed company to another, often deliberately closing down to avoid debts."

The group quotes the example of a man posing as a farmer, who wanted a loan to finance agricultural buildings. Inquiries revealed he had a dozen failed companies behind him. He had borrowed to build houses, allowed the company to crash, then walked away with the director's salary he had paid himself. He did this many times, following a practice known as "phoenixing".

CCN wants measures to eliminate rogue companies and protect small businesses from employing directors who could ruin them. It is in discussions with the Department of Trade and Industry to provide more resources to nail crooked directors.

Peter Brooker, of CCN, said: "The investigators are doing a sterling job with their present resources, doubling the number of

disqualifications in 1996, but this is still a small proportion of the directors doing naughty things, fewer than 1,000 a year."

The group is also challenging ministerial proposals to remove directors' addresses from publicly available documents at Companies House, thus barring business information organisations from storing them on their databases for use in finding dishonest operators. CCN wants the addresses to be available in confidence to responsible business organisations.

There is a warning, too, for individuals with cash to invest and businesses lending or trading on credit. They are advised to check the backgrounds of the people running the companies with which they deal, especially businesses without a track record.

Bad debts and business failures rose 10 per cent last year, figures produced by Trade Indemnity, the credit insurer, indicate (Rodney Hobson writes). 71's policyholders reported 3,229 failures compared with 2,937 in 1995.

The main consolation is that the figures are still only half the levels recorded in the peak years of the recession in 1991 and 1992.

Scotland was worst hit with business failures up 28 per cent over 1995, closely followed by the North with a 27 per cent increase. The North West and Yorkshire and Humberside saw failures rise 20 per cent and 18 per cent respectively. Wales, however, saw bad debts tumble 26 per cent.

The sector giving most cause for concern was building and construction, which has felt the worst and longest effects of the recession. Reported failures rose from 704 to 762.

More than 2,000 of Barclays' small business staff will undergo a new training programme: Understanding Small Businesses. The two-year, £4 million project involving real business people will meet the needs of the bank's owner-manager customers.

April 14 is the last day for businesses in Scotland and Wales with fewer than 50 employees to enter 1997 Smart (Small Firms Merit Award for Research and Technology) which awards up to

£45,000 towards project feasibility studies. A Smart scheme for England will be announced later.

NatWest offers 12 months' free banking to business start-ups, whether in credit or overdraft, if they do not pay more than £1 million a year out of the account. This is extended to 18 months for owners with a certificate from a

recognised start-up training course.

Kidson Impey, the accountancy firm, has produced a free guide to tax issues for family-run companies. Call 0171-334 4778.

One-2-One, the mobile telephone service, has produced A guide to growing your business in

association with the Federation of Small Businesses. Free copies are available on 0161-248 6266.

The benefits for small businesses in joining forces with local university research departments will be explained at a seminar at Southampton University on April 17. Details from Business Link Hampshire on 0345 354555.

Abbey Protection has introduced an insurance scheme to cover up to £50,000 in professional fees incurred as the result of an Inland Revenue investigation following the introduction of self-assessment.

About a third of owner managers of small businesses work more than 60 hours a week and more

than half put in 50 hours, says the NatWest Small Business Research Trust quarterly survey.

A four-year campaign to promote European exports to Japan has been announced by the European Commission. The "Gateway to Japan" programme will be aimed at helping 1,000 European companies, especially small businesses, to sell products and services through trade missions, fairs and other events. The Commission can be contacted on 0171-473 1992.



"You're a serial failure? What as - a company or a human being?"

Chancery Division

Law Report April 8 1997

Chancery Division

Duty of care to third party

Woodward v Wolfertans (a Firm)

Before Mr Michael Mann, QC

[Judgment March 20]

Where a solicitor was retained to act in the purchase of a property and execution of a mortgage by the guarantor of that mortgage, he owed a duty of care to a third party who was the purchaser and principal mortgagee, but the extent of the duty was limited to exercising reasonable care and skill in carrying out the terms of the retainer.

Mr Michael Mann QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Chancery Division, held in a reserved judgment on March 20, 1997, dismissing the plaintiff's claim for damages against the defendant firm of solicitors for, *inter alia*, negligently allowing her to execute a mortgage without first advising her of its legal effect.

Mr James Ramsden for the plaintiff, Miss Jane Milson for the defendant.

HIS LORDSHIP said that in 1989 the plaintiff then aged 22, had purchased a property in London, raising 95 per cent of the purchase price by way of mortgage. Her

father, Mr Smith, executed a guarantee of the mortgage.

The defendant firm was instructed by Mr Smith to handle the conveyancing. Although Mr Knox, the solicitor concerned, knew that the plaintiff was the purchaser and principal mortgagee, there was no material contact between the plaintiff and the defendant firm, which dealt exclusively with Mr Smith. In particular, no advice was given to the plaintiff before she executed the mortgage as to its legal effect.

The plaintiff was aware of her obligations under the mortgage, and believed that Mr Smith's guarantee meant that he was responsible for the mortgage repayments. When she started receiving letters telling her that her mortgage account was in arrears she passed them on to her father. In 1991 the lender commenced possession proceedings.

The plaintiff claimed, *inter alia*, the defendant owed a duty of care to advise her of her obligations under the mortgage and to forewarn her of the possible consequences of the lender having to resort to its security and of that security being inadequate.

Had she been apprised of those matters, she would have had the opportunity either to decline to proceed or to proceed on a basis which would not have exposed her to such risks.

HIS LORDSHIP said that although it was clear that the defendant's contract of retainer was with Mr Smith that did not mean that the defendant owed no duty of care to the plaintiff in tort.

Following *White & Carter (Councils) Ltd v McGregor* [1962] 2 AC 413, it was settled law that a solicitor could owe a duty of care to an individual who was not his client if a special relationship existed between them.

In his Lordship's opinion this was such a case: the defendant had assumed responsibility for carrying out tasks which it knew or ought to have known would closely affect the plaintiff's economic well-being. The defendant therefore owed the plaintiff a duty of care.

However, before she could establish liability the plaintiff had to show that the content of that duty included explaining the transactional details and the implications of the mortgage.

In his Lordship's judgment, it

would not be fair, just and reasonable to hold that that was the extent of the duty owed.

It was highly relevant that the defendant was simply carrying out the terms of a retainer entered into with someone other than the plaintiff. That retainer required that the defendant exercise reasonable care and skill in securing a good and marketable title to the property and the plaintiff's registration as proprietor of it.

It did not entail taking the plaintiff on as a client for the purpose of giving her advice and the court could not rewrite the contract to bring advising the plaintiff within its ambit. It was a fortiori that it could not do so by the back door. Moreover, imposing such a duty could have put the plaintiff's interests and those of Mr Smith in conflict which would be particularly unfair, unjust and unreasonable.

Accordingly, the duty owed was restricted to the exercise of reasonable care and skill in carrying the transaction into effect according to Mr Smith's instructions.

Solicitors: Clifford Chance; Bond Pearce; Plymouth.

Tunbridge v Buss Mutton & Co (a Firm) and Assthor

Before Mr Justice Laddie

[Judgment March 24]

When a plaintiff seeking damages from a defendant in respect of negligence or breach of contract occurring outside the normal period of limitation alleged that a fact relevant to his right of action had deliberately been concealed from him, it sufficed for him to allege in his statement of claim the existence of facts which showed there was some chance of the trial court inferring from them deliberate concealment.

Mr Justice Laddie so held in the Chancery Division, in allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Alan Howard Tunbridge, from an order of Master Barratt, striking out, under Order 18, rule 19 of the Rules

of the Supreme Court, paragraph 17 of his amended statement of claim against the defendants, Buss Mutton & Co and Buss Mutton.

Mrs Reszka Harrison for the plaintiff; Mr Alastair Norris for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE LADDIE said that the defendant had been solicitors both to the plaintiff and to a company of which he was a director and shareholder, and were in the 1980s instructed by him to draft a suitable debenture, properly secured against the company's assets, to cover a loan by him to it.

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Nuthall Pigeons flying high with Wright kind of players



IAN WRIGHT'S goal for Arsenal, against Chelsea, may have pleased his manager, Arsène Wenger, but it was also good news for another of his managers Mr S. Gordon, of Enfield, Middlesex, whose team in the Interactive Team Football (ITF) game, Nuthall Pigeons, has won the £250 weekly prize.

Mr Gordon's mix of north and south, pairing Wright with Jorge Cadete, of Celtic, as his two strikers has worked well although it was another Arsenal player, David Seaman, who was the highest points scorer for the team.

Mr Gordon's team is:

Goalkeeper
D Seaman (Arsenal)

Full backs
S I Bjornby (Liverpool)
D Robertson (Rangers)

Central defenders
S Campbell (Tottenham)
U Ehiogu (Aston Villa)

Midfield players
N Ardley (Wimbledon)
J Albert (Rangers)
R Winters (Dundee United)
M Gayle (Wimbledon)

Strikers
J Cadete (Celtic)
I Wright (Arsenal)

Manager
P Reid (Sunderland)

The passing of the transfer deadline means the managers in the Premiership have to make do with what they have available. However, if your team could be doing better, with your players lacking form and fitness, you can still move into the transfer market to improve your fortunes. ITF



Wright, left, of Arsenal and Nuthall Pigeons, battles for the ball with Steve Clarke, of Chelsea, at Stamford Bridge



Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 866 966 line during the times given. From outside the United Kingdom, you must call 0044 990 200 668.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the prizes — the overall £50,000, monthly £1,000 or weekly £250.

With ITF, not only are you putting your selectorial skills against other readers of *The Times*, but also you are matching your wits against those in the know. With the support of the Professional Footballers' Association, Premiership players have entered sides of their own.

Call Interactive Team Football transfer queries should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01552 488 122.

PLAYERS ON LOAN

N Gudmundsson (Blackburn to Ipswich, two weeks); B O'Neil (Celtic to Nottingham Forest, two weeks); J Lee (Nottingham Forest to Grimsby, end of season); S Blithewick (Nottingham Forest to Reading, end of season); D Wessell (Derby to Grimsby, end of season); S Flynn (Derby to Stoke, end of season); M Taylor (Derby to Wycombe, end of season); M Williams (Sheff Wednesbury to Peterborough, end of season)

Loan periods subject to fluctuation

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All 1996-7 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League premier division and Tensite Scottish Cup from August 17 count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

POINTS SCORED			
Goalkeeper	4pts	Other	2pts
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	All players	1pt
Saves penalty	1pt	Appearance†	1pt
Full back/Central defender	3pts	Scores hat-trick	6pts
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Manager	3pts
Saves goal	3pts	Team wins	3pts
Midfield player	1pt	Team draws	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts		
Saves goal	3pts		

POINTS DEDUCTED			
Goalkeeper	3pts	Booked	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt	Concedes penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender	1pt	Misses penalty	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt	Scores own goal	1pt
All players	3pts	Manager	1pt
Start off	3pts	Team loses	1pt



* must have played for 75 minutes in the match
† must have played for 45 minutes in the match

ENTER A NEW TEAM TODAY

THERE ARE BIG PRIZES TO BE WON EVERY WEEK AND EVERY MONTH

The ITF Manager of the Week and the Manager of the Month are up for grabs from now until the end of the season. Enter a team today for your chance to be a winner in 1997. The Manager of the Week or Month can be won by any team no matter where it is in the league, the prize for the Manager of the Week or Month simply goes to the person whose team scores the highest points in any one week or month.

The prize for the Manager of the Week is £250 cash, plus a £250 Sports Gift Voucher for an amateur football team in your community — as nominated by you. The Manager of the Month will receive £1,000 cash.

Enter today by following the instructions below.

Enter ITF by phone on 0891 405 011

If telephoning from outside the United Kingdom, call 44 990 100 320

1. You must use a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone).
2. Choose 1 goalkeeper, 2 full backs, 2 central defenders, 4 midfielders, 2 strikers and a manager.
3. Do not spend more than £35 million.
4. Do not choose more than two individuals (2 players or 1 player and 1 manager) from any one football club.
5. Once you have chosen your team, call the entry line, above, and follow these step-by-step instructions.

a) You must tap in (not speak) the full set of selections (using the five-digit player codes) for each of your 11 chosen players and your manager.

b) You must speak the name of your team (no more than 16 characters) your name, address, with postcode, and daytime telephone number.

c) Finally, you will be given a ten-digit personal identification number (PIN) at the end of the call. You must keep a note of this number and your chosen team as no postal notification will be sent.

N.B. Any new team will only score points on future games.

0891 calls cost 50p per minute. Your call will cost approximately double if made from a pay phone. In the event of there being more than one Manager of the Week or Month, the winner will be chosen at random. All ITF rules apply, a copy of which will be made available on request.



See Sky Text, page 118

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 866 966

If telephoning from outside the United Kingdom call 44 990 200 668.

You may make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector PIN, which you will have to tap in, not speak. Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players you are transferring.

You may only make transfers in one team per telephone call. If you have entered two teams and want to make transfers in both, you must make two separate calls.

You may transfer two (but no more than two) individuals (two players or one player and a manager) during a transfer week. A player being transferred out must be replaced by one from the same category and you must keep to the team format of a goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defenders, four midfield players, two strikers and a manager. You must not exceed the £35 million budget and have no more than two individuals from the same club. Incorrect transfers will be rejected and your team will remain in its previous form.

The transfer week runs from 00.01 on Tuesday to midnight the following Monday. Transfers made before noon each day will become effective immediately. Transfers made after noon will become effective for matches played after noon on the following day.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You must adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

Calls will be charged at 50p per minute. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Player out	Player code
Club	
Player in	
Club	

LEADING 250 SELECTORS IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL GAME

Pos	Team (player's name)	Pts
1	Edmo Utd (Mr D Edmondson)	709
2	Sophie And Sam (G Foster)	707
3	Turners Amers 5 (P Turner)	702
4	James Boys Three (Mr M Jones)	694
5	John Hunt Taunton D (J Hunt)	691
6	Ph Upz Two (Mr P Tustler)	678
7	Brain's Team (Mr B Howes)	676
8	John Hunt Taunton H (J Hunt)	676
9	Nobby 4 (J Brown)	676
10	Ab 4 (A Boyland)	675
11	Nonchalant A F C 3 (Mr RJ Ward)	674
12	Diggers (V Cox)	674
13	Nobby 39 (J Brown)	674
14	Nobby (J Brown)	669
15	Dour Rangers 3 (J Clayton)	664
16	Turner Earners 3 (P Turner)	662
17	Icarus (Mrs B Wells)	659
18	12 Angry Men (Daryl Cook)	659
19	Bobo Boys 2 (R Calder)	659
20	Nobby 28 (J Brown)	659
21	Jabbenwoody (PA Amos)	657
22	Nobby 33 (J Brown)	657
23	John Hunt Taunton G (J Hunt)	656
24	Parick Dibao 3 (Mr J Hamilton)	654
25	Beeston Celtic (Barry McGivern)	654
26	James Boys 8 (Mr M Jones)	652
27	40by 21 (J Brown)	652
28	Nobby 11 (J Brown)	650
29	Turners Earners 1 (P Turner)	649
30	Noel's Ark (G P Dolan)	648
31	Hunter's Mob (C Hunter)	647
32	Where's Ray Gone? (Patrick Fromen)	646
33	Obby 22 (J Brown)	643
34	Bladderunners (Mr P Walters)	643
35	Uni Boys Utd 1 (Mr B Gardiner)	642
36	Blythe Spartans (T Blythe)	641
37	Nobby 23 (J Brown)	641
38	Belf 1388 (Linn Bittell)	640
39	A (Martin Corless)	639
40	Jib Sports (A Bates)	638
41	Storm (Mr P Mills)	637
42	Abc (M Baber)	637
43	Inter The Pub (Mr M Ward)	636
44	Thorn Footley F C (Mr M Moran)	636
45	James Boys Sky (Mike Jones)	636
46	John Hunt Taunton F (J Hunt)	636
47	Bobo Boys 4 (R Calder)	636
48	Turners Earners 6 (P Turner)	634
49	Turners Earners 4 (P Turner)	634
50	Inter The Stand (Mr M Ward)	633
51	Scholes For Goals (K Booth)	633
52	Teddy Three (Mr B Best)	633
53	Ray Is Back To Kili 5 (Mr R Gohil)	633
54	Midfield Magic (Jon Pregon)	631
55	Tur (P Turner)	630
56	Nobby 12 (J Brown)	627
57	John Hunt Taunton C (J Hunt)	627
58	Nobby 7 (J Brown)	627
59	Nobby 25 (J Brown)	627
60	Caroline B (A Luckhurst)	626
61	Carlorth Seethawks (J Doughty)	625
62	Tulpe Taps (D Tule)	625
63	Kryston 2 (Mr S Roberts)	625
64	Club 18-30 Tossa (Andy Robson)	625
65	Nobby 14 (J Brown)	625
66	James Boys One (Mr Jones)	624
67	Your Not Very Well (R Laskowski)	623
68	Borley Boys (R Crook)	623
69	Elanore United (Paul Leader)	623

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING



Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Pos	Team (player's name)	Pts
109	N S T Monistons (Mr J Staszewicz)	608
110	Langton Longbolls (Mark Ward)	608
111	Gangsters (A Lone)	605
112	Inter The Bin (Mr M Ward)	605
113	A2 (K Farhat)	605
114	Kinky Imports (Scott Fraser)	604
115	Alk (K Hughes)	604
116	Agapanthus FC (Mr W Heslop)	603
117	Mas Fc (M Baber)	603
118	Star Chamber (Mr M MacMillan)	602
119	Coolies Gunners (Mr S Cook)	602
120	Pj Thistle (Richard Newbould)	602
121	Alice (Mr J Pigeon)	601
122	Bobo Boys 1 (R Calder)	601
123	Burnet Boys (Alan Sharpe)	600
124	Bobo Boys 5 (R Calder)	600
125	No Midfield (JB Portwood)	599
126	Goalkeepers (Mr D Duran)	599
127	Top Barons (Martin Bottomley)	599
128	End 2 (Mr J Hagger)	598
129	R K V 3 (C Vanzetti)	598
130	Caught Lucky (Mr C Wright)	598
131	Man City Free Zone (D Ingham)	598
132	Layton's Lions 7 (Mr R Layton)	597
133	Byzantine Bricks (Mr S Houghton)	597
134	Sam Shanks (Mr S Shanks)	597
135	Skylovers (A Burton)	597
136	Billy No Mates X 1 (M Bremner)	596
137	Bugle Navies (Dave Banks)	596
138	Fair Academicals (Alistair Greenwood)	596
139	Alkell (Nye)	596
140	Inter Queens (Mr R Johnson)	596
141	C U O K (Mr G Weiss)	596
142	Vat3 (K Howson)	595
143	The Far Side (C Hadfield)	594
144	Fendon United (Mr E Cowen)	594
145	Bob Hope And No Hope (T Blythe)	594
146	S Gill Taunton A (S Gill)	594
147	Purple Rain (Mr B Gohil)	593
148	Caroline C (A Luckhurst)	593
149	Robbie's (R Preston)	593
150	Patel One (Mr P Patel)	591
151	Daves First X 1 (D Quibell)	591
152	Come On You Rocks 1	591
153	Des Boot (D A Sutton)	591
154	Gration Willows (R J Brown)	591
155	Disappearing Act (John Whaling)	591
156	I Hate Alan Hansen (V Cox)	591
157	Animals (L Clark)	591
158	Its About Revenge C (Mr R Gohil)	590
159	Parasol Dogs (Mr A Jenson)	590
160	Diplomatic Risk (Mr G Pritchard)	590
161	Robbie's Team 1 (Mr M Roberts)	590
162	Superstars (Mr T Taylor)	590
163	Yahoyahs (Gordon Davidson)	590
164	Foxy (M Fox)	590
165	Fortune Hunters (K Farhat)	590
166	Northern Lights (Mr C Wright)	589
167	Holstettes (Mr D Blair)	589
168	Winn Fantasy League (Michael Madden)	589
169	Xpist Missiles (Martin Jackson)	589
170	Kingsbury Tin 1 (D F King)	589
171	Daves (D Edmondson)	589
172	Grimmers Army (S Gray)	587
173	J S August Monthly 1 (Mr J Swites)	587
174	Lesley's Legmen (L Michaels)	587
175	L F C Champs 96 97 (R Fazakarley)	587
176	J D 3 (Mr J Donaldson)	585
177	Wingless Wonders (Mr P Paynter)	584

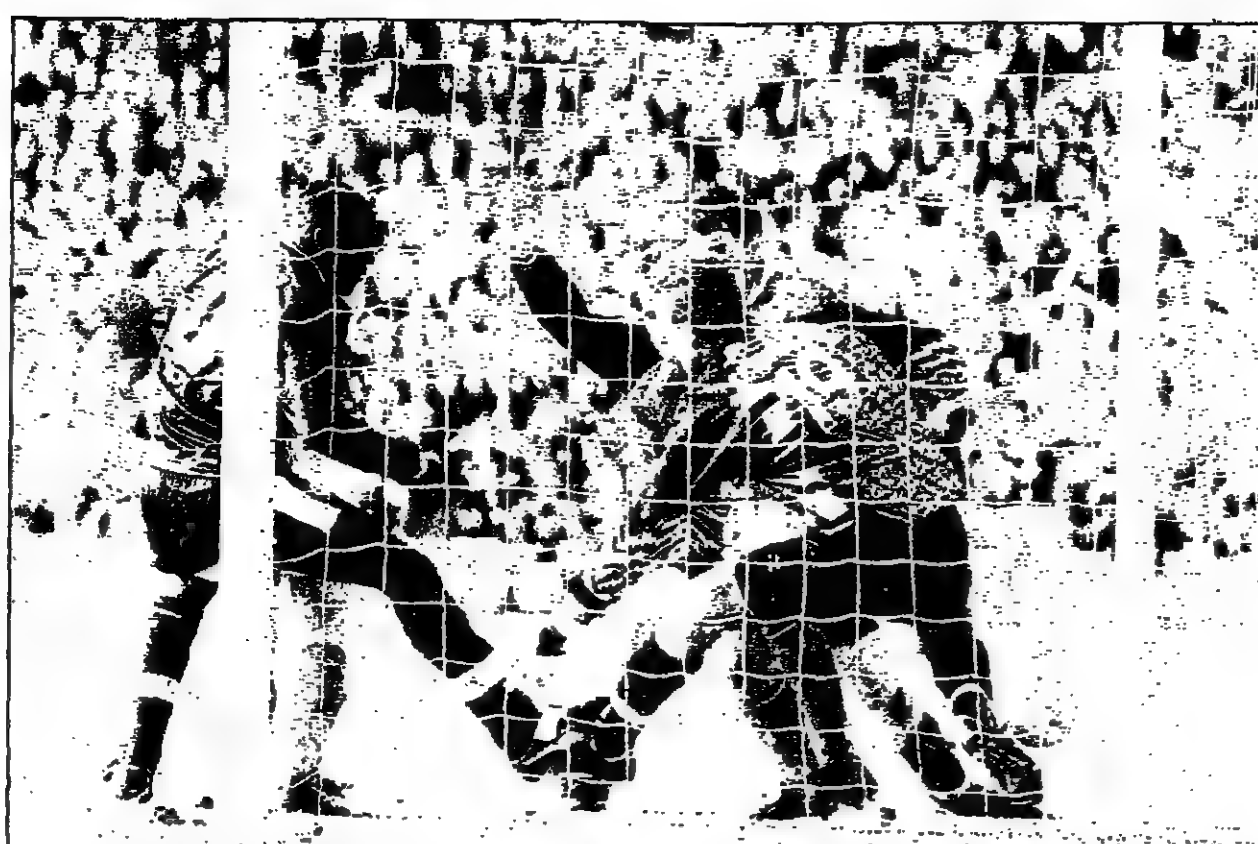
Pos	Team (player's name)	Pts
178	Shot On Sight 2 (P Goldstraw)	584
179	The Loggers (Mr C Wright)	584
180	St Bartholomews (Mr J M Bartholomew)	583
181	Daniels Seashans (V Cox)	583
182	Davalo Unit 1 (Mr D Sloan)	582
183	Triple Top Tan (Mr P Bailey)	582
184	Hobson's Haggis (Mr H A Rahim)	582
185	John Hunt Taunton A (J Hunt)	582
186	Maplappers (Mr P Reid)	581
187	Demolition Men (Mr J Murray)	581
188	Sad & Grim Team (Mr J Swann)	581
189	Bung Ho! (Graham Watson)	581
190	Bacardi Boys (Mr M Woodley)	580
191	Papadopoulos Utd (Mr A Papadopoulos)	580
192	Caroline A (A Luckhurst)	580
193	Old Camerians (R J Brown)	580
194	Tungston Town (JW George)	580
195	Botak United 1 (Julian Pull)	580
196	Schoko Zoo (Paul Roach)	580
197	Dodds Aces (C Dodd)	580
198	Hannay's Heaves (Mr G Howard)	580
199	Declassed Tigers (T Rawlings)	579
200	Crooky Boys (Mr R Crook)	579
201	Inter The Net (Mr M Ward)	579
202	Wassack (Mr M Huggil)	579
203	Wheat Ford Splash (N P Lewis)	579
204	Vat1 (K Howson)	579
205	Jacks Nightmare (N J Lane)	578
206	Oct5-11 Champ (Mark Staddon)	578
207	Dutch Courage (Ruud Van Rutenbeek)	578
208	Best Defence (Jon Pregon)	578
209	Nettes Heroes (J Fox)	578
210	Red Star Storm (P Miles)	578
211	Rubella (Mr T Wyke)	577
212	Rock Bottom (Mr E O Gorman)	577
213	Lynne's Lions (Lynne Homes)	577
214	March Pass (M McGovern)	577
215	Alancia F C (A Siliano)	577
216	Sooty's Puppers (Mr J Egan Ryan)	576
217	Alpacool (Chris Strachan)	576
218	The Wee Rovers (Mr D O'Donnell)	576
219	E J K's Unleashed (Mr EJ Kitchen)	575
220	real Ale Ripon (C Blackshaw)	575
221	No Hope From Dad FC (Mr A Du Gay)	575
222	Havok (Peter Williamson)	575
223	Suchanra (Richard Kenan)	575
224	Powerage (J Doughty)	575
225	Flying Pig (M Macmillan)	575
226	Back In Bristol (Mr D Sloan)	574
227	Dwyer's Tiptoes (Mr J Dwyer)	574
228	Lloyd's Barge (David Goodwin)	574
229	John Hunt Taunton B (J Hunt)	574
230	Where's Amos? (L J Saunders)	574
231	The Instructors (K Curran)	574
232	Celtic Fowlers (Mr G Thomas)	573
233	Subwith Utd 3 (Mr M Larcombe)	573
234	Hannah's Heroes (Colin Bennett)	573
235	The Dansters (C C Veevers)	573
236	Scottilla United (Mr S Goff)	572
237	Laughing Gravy (Mr D Clarke)	572
238	Solid Sents (Mr P Riddow)	572
239	The Wonders (Mr J Robbuck)	572
240	The Winners Vv (Kram Wadwa)	572
241	Kelly's Best (P Linney)	572
242	Toms Tigers X 11 (Mr J Mooney)	571
243	Excaltur (M Tupper)	571
244	4 4 2 (K Brown)	571
245	Nomads (Mr C Wilson)	571
246	Graham's Burgers (Graham Watson)	571
247	Rain's Dream Team (Morien Ravn)	571
248	Skyline Sizzlers (T Gordon)	571

0891 866 966

The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Wk	Pls	Wk	Pls
10101	N Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	0	-12		
10102	N Walker	Aberdeen	1.00	0	-14		
10201	D Swann	Arsenal	5.00	+5	+35		
10202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.75	0	0		
10301	J Lukic	Aston Villa	0.75	0	+1		
10302	M Oakes	Aston Villa	3.50	0	+24		
10401	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-1	+18		
10402	S Given	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+4		
10501	G Marshall	Celtic	3.50	0	-1		
10502	S Kerr	Celtic	3.00	-1	+27		
10601	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	0	+10		
10602	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	2.00	0	-27		
10603	F Grodas	Chelsea	1.50	0	-5		
10701	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	0	-32		
10702	J Filian	Coventry City	0.50	-1	-3		
10801	R Houtt	Derby County	1.00	0	-34		
10802	M Poom	Derby County	1.00	-3	-3		
10901	A Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50	0	+4		
10902	S Dwyer	Dundee United	0.50	0	-10		
11001	J Westwater	Durham United	2.50	-4	-4		
11002	N Southall	Everton	2.50	-5	-29		
11101	P Gerrard	Everton	2.50	0	+1		
11201	G Rousseau	Hearts	2.00	-1	-8		
11301	J Leighton	Hibernian	1.50	+5	-22		
11401	J Leighton	Kilmarnock	1.00	+5	-39		
11501	M Benson	Leeds United	1.50	0	+5		
11502	N Martyn	Leeds United	2.50	0	+30		
11601	K Poole	Leicester City	1.00	0	-16		
11602	K Keller	Leicester City	1.00	0	-14		
11701	D James	Liverpool	5.00	-3	+22		
11702	T Warner	Liverpool	1.50	0	0		
11703	J Nielsen	Liverpool	1.00	0	0		
11801	P Schmiedel	Manchester United	1.00	-5	-7		
11802	R Van Der Gouw	Manchester United	1.00	-5	-7		
11901	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+3		
11902	B Roberts	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+3		
11903	M Schwarzer	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+4		
12001	S Howie	Motherwell	1.50	+5	-26		
12101	S Hishop	Newcastle United	4.00	-1	-15		
12102	J Nielsen	Newcastle United	3.00	0	0		
12201	M Croxley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-5	-49		
12202	A Fettes	Nottingham Forest	0.75	-1	-2		
12301	S Thomson	Raith Rovers	0.50	-1	-54		
12401	A Goram	Rangers	5.00	0	+29		
12402	A Dibble	Rangers	3.50	+5	+5		
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	0	+4		
12502	M Clark	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	0		
12601	D Besant	Southampton	1.00	0	-28		
12602	S Thompson	Southampton	1.00	0	-28		
12701	M Taylor	Sunderland	1.00	-1	-3		
12702	L Perez	Sunderland	0.50	0	+9		
12801	T Coton	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	+5	-8		
12802	E Baarsen	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0		
12901	L Mikosko	West Ham United	2.00	0	-28		
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	1.00	-1	-4		
13002	P Head	Wimbledon	1.00	0	-1		



Heskey's late goal gave Leicester City another chance in the Coca-Cola Cup final. Is he good enough for your team?

CENTRAL DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Wk	Pls	Wk	Pls
30401	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	0	+30		
30402	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	0		
30403	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	-3		
30404	N Marker	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	+2		
30501	T Boyd	Celtic	3.00	0	+29		
30502	M MacKay	Celtic	1.50	0	+37		
30503	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.50	0	+19		
30504	E Annoni	Celtic	3.00	0	+4		
30601	M Duberry	Chelsea	2.50	0	+1		
30602	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	2.50	0	+29		
30603	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	0	-4		
30604	D Lee	Chelsea	2.00	0	+3		
30605	A Myers	Chelsea	1.50	-1	0		
30606	E Johnson	Chelsea	1.50	0	+11		
30701	L Dashi	Coventry City	2.00	0	+5		
30702	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	0	+5		
30703	G Breen	Coventry City	1.50	0	-1		
30704	A Evtushok	Coventry City	1.50	0	+1		
30801	I Stinson	Derby County	2.50	0	-10		
30802	G McGrath	Derby County	2.50	-1	-2		
30803	J Laurson	Derby County	1.00	-1	-10		
30804	M Carbone	Derby County	0.50	0	-5		
30901	S Pressley	Dundee United	1.00	-4	+51		
31001	M Miller	Durham United	0.75	-4	-6		
31002	I Den Blom	Durham United	0.75	-3	-17		
31101	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	+1	+16		
31102	D Watson	Everton	2.50	+1	+11		
31103	C Short	Everton	2.00	-3	-7		
31201	D McPherson	Hearts	1.00	0	+27		
31202	P Ritchie	Hearts	1.00	0	+32		
31301	J McLaughlin	Hibernian	0.50	+3	+7		
31302	J Welch	Hibernian	0.75	0	+9		
31303	G Hunter	Hibernian	0.50	0	-3		
31304	S Dennis	Hibernian	1.00	0	-19		
31401	M Reilly	Kilmarnock	1.00	+4	+7		
31402	R Montgomery	Kilmarnock	0.75	+4	+8		
31501	D Wetherill	Leeds United	2.50	0	+31		
31502	R Johnson	Leeds United	1.00	0	+1		
31503	L Radebe	Leeds United	1.00	0	+23		
31504	J Pemberton	Leeds United	0.50	0	0		
31505	R Molenaar	Leeds United	2.00	0	+24		
31601	S Walsh	Leicester City	1.00	0	+12		
31602	J Watts	Leicester City	1.00	0	+10		
31603	P Karmark	Leicester City	0.50	0	+6		
31604	S Prior	Leicester City	1.00	0	+3		
31701	M Elliott	Liverpool	1.50	0	+9		
31702	P Babb	Liverpool	3.50	0	+24		
31703	M Wright	Liverpool	3.50	0	+32		
31704	N Ruddock	Liverpool	3.00	0	+14		
31705	D Matteo	Liverpool	1.00	-2	-26		
31706	K Kvarme	Liverpool	2.00	-1	+5		
31801	G Pallister	Manchester United	3.50	-2	+11		
31802	D May	Manchester United	3.00	0	+34		
31803	R Johnson	Manchester United	2.50	0	+12		
31804	A Pearson	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+3		
31805	S Vickers	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-12		
31806	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-10		
31807	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	-4		
31808	G Festa	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+4		
31901	M Martin	Motherwell	1.50	0	+14		
31902	M Van Der Gaag	Motherwell	0.75	+4	+14		
32001	P Albiston	Newcastle United	2.50	0	+17		
32002	S Howey	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+7		
32003	D Pearce	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+17		
32004	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.00	-2	+5		
32005	S Chellie	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-2	+10		
32006	D Craig	Raith Rovers	0.50	+3	-3		
32007	G Mitchell	Raith Rovers	0.50	0	-1		
32008	R Gough	Rangers	3.00	+4	+19		
32009	A Mearns	Rangers	3.50	+4	+35		
32010	J Bjorklund	Rangers	2.50	+7	+14		
32011	G Pabst	Rangers	2.00	0	+15		
32012	J Newsome	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	0	+15		
32013	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+33		
32014	P Lingham	Sheffield Wednesday	0.25	0	0		
32015	A Pearson	Southampton	1.00	-2	+3		
32016	R Dryden	Southampton	0.50	0	-2		
32017	C Lundekvam	Southampton	0.50	0	-4		
32018	U Van Gool	Southampton	1.50	0	-19		
32019	A Melville	Sunderland	1.00	0	+12		
32020	K Ball	Sunderland	1.00	0	+7		
32021	S Carragher	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+4	+21		
32022	J Scalls	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	+4	+10		
32023	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+14		
32024	G Mabbitt	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	0		
32025	S Nethercott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	-8		
32026	R Vee	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00	0	-1		
32027	S Bille	West Ham United	2.50	0	+6		
32028	M Pieper	West Ham United	2.00	0	-2		
32029	S Potts	West Ham United	1.50	0	0		
32030	R Hall	West Ham United	0.50	0	+4		
32031	R Ferdinand	West Ham United	0.50	0	+4		
32032	A Reeves	Wimbledon	1.00	0	0		
32033	A Pearce	Wimbledon	0.50	0	+18		
32034	B Blackwell	Wimbledon	0.50	0	+14		
32035	B McAlester	Wimbledon	0.50	0	+14		
32036	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.25	0	0		

MIDFIELD PLAYERS

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Wk	Pls	Wk	Pls
40101	D Windass	Aberdeen	3.00	+2	+37		
40102	S Glass	Aberdeen	3.00	+2	+21		
40103	P Barnard	Aberdeen	2.50	+1	+8		
40104	I Kirjakov	Aberdeen	0.50	+2	+28		
40105	T Tsvetanov	Aberdeen	0.50	+2	+28		
40201	D Platt	Arsenal	4.50	+4	+35		
40202	P Merson	Arsenal	4.00	0	+55		
40203	R Parlor	Arsenal	2.00	0	+25		
40204	G Helder	Arsenal	1.50	0	0		
40205	I Solley	Arsenal	0.50	0	0		
40206	P Vieira	Arsenal	3.00	+2	+38		
40207	R Garde	Arsenal	2.00	+2	+7		
40208	S Hughes	Arsenal	2.00	+2	+12		
40301	M Draper	Aston Villa	4.00	+1	+30		
40302	A Townsend	Aston Villa	2.50	0	+46		
40303	T Taylor	Aston Villa	2.50	+1	+36		
40304	G Farrelly	Aston Villa	1.00	+1	+1		
40305	S Curcio	Aston Villa	8.50	+2	+21		
40306	J Wilcox	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	0	+39		
40307	L Bohinen	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	+27		
40308	G Fittcroft	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+23		
40309	B McKinnay	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+15		
40310	T Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+43		
40311	P Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	+4		
40312	G Donis	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	+16		
40313	S Ripley	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	+5		
40314	M Holmes	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0	0		

MIDFIELD PLAYERS

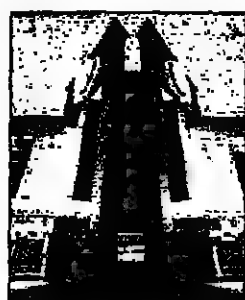
31502	J Henderson	Leeds United	1.00	0	+22
31503	J Leighton	Leeds United	1.00	0	+22
31504	J Pimberton	Leeds United	0.50	0	0
31505	R Molenaar	Leeds United	2.00	0	+24
31601	S Walsh	Leicester City	1.00	+12	
31602	J Watts	Leicester City	1.00	+10	
31603	P Kinnear	Leicester City	0.50	+10	
31604	S Peto	Leicester City	1.00	+3	
31605	M Elliott	Leicester City	1.50	+9	
31701	P Babb	Liverpool	3.50	0	+24
31703	M Wright	Liverpool	3.50	+32	
31704	N Ruddock	Liverpool	3.00	+14	
31705	D Matteo	Liverpool	1.50	+2	+26
31706	L Kyrie	Liverpool	2.00	+5	
31801	G Pallas	Manchester United	3.50	-2	+11
31802	D May	Manchester United	3.00	+34	
31803	R Johnson	Manchester United	2.50	-2	+22

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LAW

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Carol Allen on the
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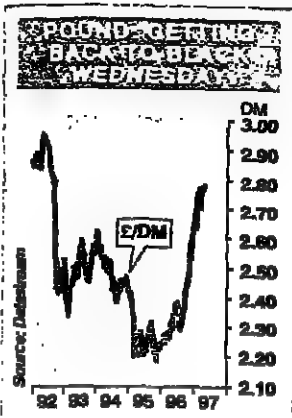
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FOCUS ON
SMALL
BUSINESS
PAGE 21

TUESDAY APRIL 8 1997

Pound at highest since leaving the ERM



By ALASDAIR MURRAY
AND PHILIP BASSETT

THE POUND surged past its old European exchange-rate mechanism floor yesterday, reaching its highest level since it left the ERM in September 1992. Sterling closed more than 4 pence higher at DM2.789, compared with an ERM floor of 2.7780. The pound has now risen by more than 22 per cent against the mark since last August.

The continuing strength of the pound reflects the hardening market consensus that rates will need to rise steeply after the election. Rates are not expected to change after Thursday's monthly monetary meeting between the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England but the City is predicting that an incoming Chancellor will raise base rates by as much as half a point next month.

renewed political optimism that European Monetary Union will proceed on time. Shares climbed in London, helped by a recovery on Wall Street, with the FT-SE 100 closing up 35.1 points at 4,271.7. Dealers said worries about rate rises in the UK and the US are likely to cap any further rises.

The survey of more than 300 firms, carried out with consultants Coopers & Lybrand, showed volumes rising most strongly among private individuals and financial institutions. Profitability among financial service companies also rose moderately, with a net 23 per cent of firms reporting an increase, compared with 48 per cent in the previous survey, which was the sharpest increase since September 1994. Companies expect profitability to rise more quickly over the coming three months.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET

FTSE 100	4271.7 (+35.1)
Yield	5.71% (+0.01%)
FTSE All share	2077.88 (+12.81)
Nikkei	17715.67 (+144.92)
Dow Jones	8577.06 (+50.99)
S&P Composite	763.37 (+5.47)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5.75% (5.75%)
Long Bond	94.30% (93.75%)
Yield	7.08% (7.12%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	6.50% (6.50%)
12-month bill	108.50 (108.50)

STERLING

New York	1.8280 (1.8343)
London	1.8287 (1.8403)
DM	2.7894 (2.7488)
FF	9.3823 (9.2538)
Sfr	2.3524 (2.3467)
Yen	204.04 (203.35)
£ Index	89.4 (88.6)

US DOLLAR

London	1.7088 (1.6883)
DM	6.7500 (6.6785)
Sfr	1.4945 (1.4423)
Yen	125.85 (124.30)
£ Index	105.4 (104.3)

TOKYO CLOSE YEN

124.78

WORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jun)	\$18.25 (\$17.86)
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GOLD

London close	\$365.30 (\$367.48)
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* denotes midday trading price

Equitas doubtful about its survival

By JON ASHWORTH

THE precarious state of Lloyd's recovery was underlined yesterday, when Equitas, the reinsurance company formed to take on billions of pounds in long-term Lloyd's risks, conceded that it could be forced into receivership.

Coopers & Lybrand, auditor to Equitas, says "significant uncertainties" surrounding the extent of outstanding claims means Equitas may not be able to meet its insurance liabilities in full. This would effectively push it into receivership, with disastrous consequences for London's standing in world insurance.

The warning is contained in Equitas's maiden set of report and accounts, which catalogues generous levels of pay in the Equitas boardroom. Michael Crall, chief executive, received remuneration of nearly £430,000 in the eight months to September 4, when Equitas became operational. Mr Crall, an American, was guaranteed a minimum bonus of £100,000 during his first year, and received £75,000 towards his relocation to the UK.

Total fees to auditors reached £9.4 million. Coopers & Lybrand was paid nearly £5 million, with the balance due to auditors across a range of Lloyd's syndicates. Costs associated with the formation of Equitas totalled £130 million. More disturbing is the extent to which Coopers & Lybrand

has qualified the Equitas accounts. The firm gives warning that future claims experience is likely to differ from estimated liabilities, "potentially to a material degree". Significant uncertainties surround three key provisions — £14.8 billion in outstanding claims; £4.3 billion in reinsurers' share of these claims; and £1.5 billion in reinsurance recoveries.

Crall: £430,000 package



On the ball: Martin Edwards, Manchester United's chief executive, reported a 42 per cent rise in half-year profits before tax and transfers

Glory at a price for Manchester

By JASON NISSE

MANCHESTER UNITED will pay so much in bonuses to players if it wins the European Cup that it would incur a loss out of appearing in the final, the Premiership football club said yesterday.

United plays Borussia Dortmund tomorrow in the first leg of the semi-final, vying for a

place in next month's final. However, David Gill, United's finance director, said: "Financially, it is better to lose the final than win it."

United would not detail the bonus structure, but said that the revenue for the final would be slightly less than that from appearing in the semi-final, which it revealed to be £1.75 million. Martin Edwards,

chief executive, said the bonus payments for winning the cup were "very high". The club has been renegotiating its contracts with its senior professionals to put them on deals that last up to five years in order to overcome the effects of the Bosman ruling in the European Court, which allows footballers to leave clubs at the end of con-

tracts for no fee. This has led to an increase in United's annual wage bill of nearly £6 million. Mr Edwards said three leading players had yet to sign new deals and one has a contract that ends this summer.

London Clubs drops £200m bid

By ALASDAIR MURRAY AND KEITH RODGERS

LONDON Clubs International, the casino company, yesterday dropped its £200 million bid for rival Capital Casinos after the Government said it was referring the bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

It also emerged that Capital has offered to make up any losses suffered by its employee pension fund after contributions were diverted to a bank account for two years.

The decision to refer the bid took the City — and both companies — by surprise, with shares in Capital falling 14p to 186p, while London Club

shares dropped 7p to 401.5p. A successful London Clubs bid would have resulted in the company controlling about two thirds of the London casino market. But analysts pointed to the fact that casinos are already tightly regulated and that most of the members, of what are effectively private clubs, come from overseas.

London Clubs appeared uncertain last night about its future intentions. The MMC report is due to be completed by July 7, and if favourable, London Clubs would be able to start the bid process again. The trustees of the pension fund withheld contributions from a Norwich Union pension scheme from the beginning of 1995. Instead, company and employee contributions for the 100 scheme members were paid into a TSB deposit account, held by Sedgwick Noble Lowndes, until a new pension scheme was launched this January. Garry Nesbitt, chairman of Capital, and David Gray, a fellow director, are directors of Crookford Holdings, the corporate pension trustee.

The situation was highlighted in a report commissioned by Deloitte & Touche, the company's auditor, in the autumn of 1995. It is understood that Deloitte discovered the trustees had failed to prepare accounts for the scheme since it was launched in 1990, and no trustee meetings had been held.

Pearson's £130,000 'hello' to Scardino

By ERIC REGULY

MARJORIE SCARDINO was paid a £130,000 "golden hello" when she became chief executive of Pearson, the media and entertainment group that owns the Financial Times, in January.

The Pearson annual report, published yesterday, revealed that the payment came on top of her annual base salary of £96,500, which Pearson said "is deemed" to be £425,000 when a portion of her £60,500 housing allowance is included.

Ms Scardino, the former chief executive of The Economist, which is 50 per cent owned by Pearson, is also to be conditionally awarded Pearson shares valued at £300,000 this year, £200,000 next year and another £200,000 in 1999 as part of the share incentive plan. It comes into effect when the total return to Pearson shareholders over a three-year period exceeds the return of the FTSE 100 index by 25 per cent.

The total pay of Pearson's executive directors in 1996 fell by about half because no payments under the share incentive plan were made in 1996. The next payments are to come in 1998. Lord Blakenham, the chairman who is to be replaced by Dennis Stevenson at the annual meeting in May, saw his total remuneration fall from £750,000 to £353,000.

Ms Scardino hopes to reveal more information next month on the unauthorised discounts offered to retailers by a Penguin books employee in New Jersey, costing Pearson £100 million.

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Fixed at 17° 9'S, 128° 41'E, capped with snow.

This week's five year 'fixed and capped' offer, benefit from a highly competitive 6.99% (7.3% APR) fixed for the first two years, and for the following three, float with the standard variable rate but never go higher than the 'cap' of 7.99%. Details coming up:

- 6.99% (7.3% APR) fixed until 14.99
- Capped rate at 7.99% from 14.99 to 14.2002
- Redemption penalty 3% of loan for first five years
- No compulsory insurances
- Lender's arrangement fee of £295 added to the loan
- Funded by a Building Society committed to mutuality with a standard rate currently lower than the average.

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Fixed at 6.99% (7.3% APR) for two years, capped at 7.99% till 2002.

JOHN CHARCOL

Actual Example: A £100,000 secured only mortgage on a property valued at £100,000 repaid over 25 years (assuming completion 31/03/97). 100 per cent monthly repayments of £495.50 (including interest and fees) at 6.99% APR. The standard variable rate (SVR) is 1.499% above the Bank of England base rate (currently 5.75%). The standard variable rate (SVR) is 1.499% above the Bank of England base rate (currently 5.75%). The standard variable rate (SVR) is 1.499% above the Bank of England base rate (currently 5.75%).

Cowie declares victory

Cowie, the transport group, has declared victory in its fight to oust as a director Neil Pykett, former head of its leasing division, by shareholder vote.

Of the 41 per cent of votes cast by proxy, 97 per cent were for formally removing Mr Pykett. He formally resigned at the weekend, before votes were counted, and intends to sue Cowie for unfair dismissal.

Cowie shares, which have fallen 10 per cent since the dispute became public, rose 2½p to 198½p. Pennington, page 27

Jobless fall

Unemployment in the Irish Republic fell in March to its lowest for six years. The number claiming jobless benefit fell to 262,400 (11.9 per cent). The seasonally adjusted figure rose by 900.

Utilities deal

United Utilities is to sell its 50 per cent stakes in two US power producers, in Florida and Virginia, in a £25 million deal. They go to Indeck, a private fund operating power projects.

AIT contract

AIT, of Henley-on-Thames, has won a multimillion-pound contract to deliver a composite banking desktop system for KeyCorp, the tenth-largest US bank.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.10	2.09
Austria Sch	20.32	18.82
Belgium F	35.36	35.36
Canada C	2.24	2.24
Cyprus Cyp	0.867	0.797
Denmark Kr	11.24	10.34
Finland Mk	6.79	6.08
France F	9.70	9.00
Germany M	2.91	2.85
Greece Dr	491	458
Hong Kong S	13.38	12.28
Ireland P	1.00	1.00
Israel Sh	8.70	5.13
Italy Lit	2074	2074
Japan Yen	217.20	207.20
Malta M	0.659	0.596
Netherlands G	3.559	3.029
New Zealand \$	2.81	2.29
Norway Kr	11.35	10.85
Portugal Esc	207.50	207.50
Spain Ptas	166.64	166.64
Sweden Kr	13.16	12.16
Switzerland F	2.48	2.30
Taiwan N	216.71	206.71
USA \$	1.728	1.628

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as of close of trading yesterday.

Bankers Trust pays \$1.7bn for oldest US broking firm

FROM RICHARD THOMSON
IN NEW YORK

BANKERS TRUST, the New York bank, is buying Alex Brown, America's oldest stockbroking firm, in a \$1.7 billion deal that challenges the law that has separated US banks from securities companies for more than 60 years.

The takeover is expected to be the first of many as banks take advantage of the recent relaxation by US banking regulators of the 1933 Glass Steagall Act. Other leading Wall Street securities firms vulnerable to

takeover include Salomon Brothers, Lehman Brothers and Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette as commercial banks aim to cash in on the huge profits enjoyed by brokerage houses in the stock market boom. Some analysts believe that even Merrill Lynch, the largest US broking house, may be forced to link with a bank.

In an all-paper deal Bankers Trust is paying \$68.26 for each Alex Brown share, a significant premium to the Baltimore broker's market price on Friday of \$41.30. A large premium was inevitable

because Alex Brown had been approached by several US and European banks in recent months as the consolidation mania on Wall Street heated up.

Frank Newman, chairman of Bankers, will be chairman of the merged company, while A. B. "Buzzy" Krongard, head of Alex Brown, will be deputy.

The acquisition will push Bankers firmly into the institutional equity underwriting and issuing business. It is part of the bank's move into new areas of investment banking by buying existing firms such

as Wolfensohn & Co, the corporate finance boutique that it acquired last year. Bankers has been rebuilding its business and reputation in wholesale banking after a decade in the derivatives markets in the early 1990s which led to court cases with Procter & Gamble among others, and a fine from the Securities and Exchange Commission. Although it is a traditional deposit-taking institution, it has moved further than most commercial banks into investment banking areas.

The current wave of banking consolidation was encouraged by the Federal Reserve Board's decision last year to increase the proportion of securities business that commercial banks were allowed to undertake.

The restriction was imposed during the Depression because securities losses in the 1929 Crash were thought to have caused widespread bank collapses that deepened the economic turmoil at the time. But recent changes in banking markets have undermined the rule and led to calls for its abolition.

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Rowland Gee, managing director, left, and Terence Donovan of Moss Bros

Moss Bros dressed for success

MOSS BROS aims to increase its share of the UK men's suit market to 15 per cent from 5 per cent over three years, with the return of the look-good factor that has restored the popularity of the three-piece suit, the company said yesterday (Morag Preston writes).

In the year to January 31 the specialist menswear retailer achieved a 41 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to £15.9 million. Terence Donovan, finance director, said: "Coming out of the recession, men, or their wives, have decided that they don't want to look dowdy any more."

Turnover increased 39 per cent, to £121.9 million, compared with £87.5 million last time. A final dividend of 17.5p a share makes a total of 24p, an increase of 33 per cent on last year.

Tempus, page 28

Pension claims fund seeks £2m

BY SARA MCCONNELL

AN ESTIMATED 200,000 company pension schemes face levies totalling £2 million to set up the first industry compensation fund for scheme members. The fund will pay out to employees whose employer has failed to meet pension promises, leaving the employees facing losses.

Julian Farrand, chairman

of the new Pensions Compensation Board, said at the PCB's launch yesterday that the compensation scheme was a direct response to Robert Maxwell's theft in 1991 of an estimated £450 million from his employees' pension funds. He said: "We are part of the Maxwell legacy."

The compensation scheme, which the PCB will operate, is part of a tightening up of protection for occupational

scheme members under the Pensions Act 1995, which came into force last Sunday. Under the scheme, employees will be able to claim compensation for 90 per cent of their losses. But they will not be able to claim unless their employer is insolvent as well as dishonest. The compensation fund is intended to be a last resort for employees who have no other avenue of redress.

The Board has not yet

received any claims. But observers fear there could be a flood of applicants who have been waiting for the start of the scheme. Dr Farrand expects the majority of claims to be made by independent trustees appointed by company liquidators.

Individual members and administrators can also claim, although the compensation can only be paid to trustees under the rules of the scheme.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

BT to create 2,000 jobs in the North

BRITISH TELECOM yesterday announced plans to create 2,000 jobs at two telemarketing centres in Doncaster and North Tyneside. Almost all of the jobs will be part-time and will pay about £5 an hour. BT said the sites will cost £15 million each and will open in the autumn. The centres will use "cold calling" to sell BT products, such as the Friends & Family discount package, charge cards and Internet access, to existing customers.

Another office, in Bristol, specialises in convincing non-BT customers to switch to BT. BT has found that telemarketing can be more effective than direct-mail campaigns. In the UK, an estimated 250,000 people, or 1 per cent of the workforce, work in telemarketing, against about 3 per cent in America.

Nintendo lifts forecast

NINTENDO, the Japanese video games company, has raised its profit forecast for this year on the back of booming sales of its new Nintendo 64 console. The company, fighting a fierce video games war with Sony and Sega, predicted profits of ¥63 billion (£300 million) this year, up from a previous estimate of ¥48 billion. However, Nintendo said that a ¥26 billion charge to cover rationalisation of European operations would cut 1996 profits to ¥35 billion, down from a projected ¥48 billion.

Theft of \$1m alleged

A BIRMINGHAM businessman stole more than \$1 million from the Salvation Army in 1992 to save off creditors and save his home and business premises, Southwark Crown Court was told yesterday. The prosecution said Stuart Christopher Ford, 46, who denies 21 charges of theft, convinced the Salvation Army to invest more than \$7 million in a standby letter of credit to generate income. The Salvation Army received \$200,000, but this was its own money, it was alleged. The case continues.

MY poised to expand

MY HOLDINGS, the labels and packaging company, will this year launch an overseas expansion drive by joining forces with a range of European companies. A £15 million acquisition strategy will follow. MY is in talks with companies in France, Spain and Italy. The group's pre-tax profits were £6.5 million (£5.49 million) in the six months to March 1. After an interim dividend of 0.8p (0.7p), due on June 11, earnings rose to 3.36p (2.76p). Shares rose 4½p to 121½p yesterday.

Intermediate higher

INTERMEDIATE CAPITAL, the provider of mezzanine financing typically used in management buyouts, increased pre-tax profits 6 per cent to £20.2 million last year. It made £109 million of new loans in the year ending January 31. Tom Bartlam, Intermediate's managing director, said 53 per cent of business is from companies in continental Europe and this is likely to increase to 60 per cent. A final dividend of 10.6p is proposed for May 23, taking the total to 15.4p (13.4p).

Trafficmaster loss grows

TRAFFICMASTER, the traffic monitoring group, had a loss of £3.4 million in the year to December, a deterioration from the £2.5 million loss in the previous year. It is predicting a profit for the current year. Losses per share accelerated from 11.5p to 14.0p and the shares fell from 332p to 323p. The group, however, has £15.6 million of cash which it says is sufficient to complete its present plans, particularly its network expansion.

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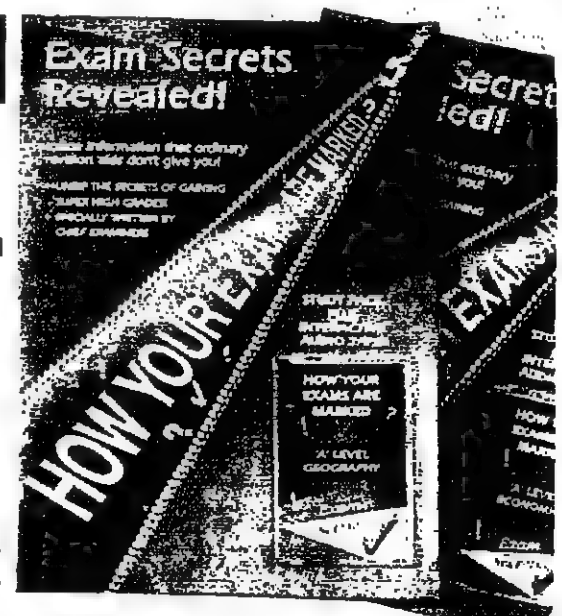
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CHANGING TIMES

□ Winners and losers in railways lottery □ Cowie career crash prompts questions □ Football becoming a sector of two halves

Collision course

□ SOME trains go faster than others — this is simply a matter of physics. Some trains do not run at all, and some have a regrettable tendency to come off the rails. Under the system used to sell off British Rail, the same must be true of the companies selected to run those trains.

This is to make no comment on the methodology behind yesterday's doom and gloom report from Save Our Railways, an organisation that seems to want the return of British Rail in all its nationalised glory, written in an unholy alliance with an accountant who advised on the privatisation. The report accepts that a number of variables could influence any coming cull of franchise operators, and that it is not at present possible to say whether the cost to the taxpayer will go up or down as a result of awarding the job to these operators. By implication, it is not possible either to decide which will flourish and which will fail.

There are two predictable responses to the hit list of profitable, or otherwise, franchise operators drawn up. One is synthetic outrage at the profits being made by the lucky ones — even if the real outrage should be reserved for those that take the money and fail to provide the proper service.

The other is concern at what happens when those failures

arrive. There are no penalties on operators who walk off the job, and any profit will fall along with Government subsidies during the life of the franchise.

If this fall can be matched by higher revenues — more passengers attracted by a better service — or lower costs, all well and good. If not, there are no assets to walk away from — rolling stock, track, stations, all are leased, and the only properties are intellectual ones, the right to run trains on this route and that route on the attached terms. Should these properties cease to be valuable, well, thanks for all that cash in years one and two. We're off to the Bahamas now. The tough terms imposed on some of the most recently awarded franchises mean that some firms will be tempted.

What happens then? Larger operators, Stagecoach and National Express and their like, will take over routes run by smaller ones, because they are better placed to make a profit. Such consolidation is already seen as inevitable. But they will request subsidies rather higher than those initially granted. Either

they will get them — in which case, higher cost to the Exchequer. Or they will not, and the state will step in to run the services — result, ditto, unless you believe a state-run railway can operate more efficiently than a private one. And we have just spent 50 years disproving that.

In the end there could be four or five big operators running most of the network. Just like before 1945, in fact — except with the Government, of whatever hue, committed to operate the unprofitable bits they do not want. A triumph for the cherry-pickers — and not quite what was meant by privatisation of the railways.

Resign, and we sack you

□ THESE little spats over corporate governance can be so revealing. Who would have thought in February, when Cowie Group first tried to sack the man in charge of its car leasing side, that it would have taken so long, or done such harm to the share price?

Neil Pykett has finally re-



signed just three days before a special meeting of Cowie shareholders who would have been asked to sack him, and would certainly have done so. He was to be sacked because he had given notice of his resignation, which will certainly teach him not to do it again and is an interesting reflection of the way things are done at Cowie.

Mr Pykett leaves after 33 years at the company. Not a man too riven with self-doubt, he confidently expects to be back within another five, as chief executive. This was the job he wanted all along, and the realisation that it would never be his prompted that resignation.

His chances, at this stage, do not look good. Neither do the

employment practices of his former employer. He was on a three-year rolling contract, but the rest of the Cowie board decided to limit any sum paid on his departure. This is all well and good; careers are blocked all the time, and it is not a proper use of shareholders' funds to compensate for such disappointments providing the original salary is still being paid. Except for that three-year roller, unacceptable in today's climate of corporate governance, which could have been used to reward a less outspoken director.

There is also a serious question mark over Gordon Hodgson, chief executive, now well into his sixty-sixth year and seemingly not inclined to budge. There have been other abrupt departures from the Cowie board in the past, not least the founder, Sir Tom Cowie, edged out by Mr Hodgson and now hectoring loudly from the sidelines.

Institutions have watched unhappily as the affair has sent the share price tumbling from almost 450p to below £4 at last night's close, and obscured a good set of results. Their atten-

tion having been attracted, they should be asking plenty of questions about just what goes on in the Cowie boardroom.

To the winners go the spoils

□ MANCHESTER UNITED has struck a blow to be welcomed by anyone worried about declining standards on television. The club has rejected a proposal to have four hours a night dedicated to it on a cable TV channel. "We thought it would be too intrusive," says Martin Edwards, the club's low-key chief executive.

Intrusive or not, TV dominates the burgeoning football sector. But simply, any other way of bringing in revenue costs money. To gain larger crowds requires a bigger stadium — expanding Old Trafford to a capacity of 55,000 will have cost United £92.7 million by the time it is finished — and to sell merchandise and replica shirts requires someone to make them. But when clubs sell the TV rights to matches, they just sit back and count the cash.

That is why pay-per-view TV is so attractive and why the present way of dividing TV revenues cannot hold. Currently half the income from the deal with BSkyB (40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*) is divided equally between the clubs, another quarter depends on where you end up in the table and the remainder on how often you appear. Edwards says this favours the smaller clubs to the detriment of United.

When it comes to negotiating a deal for pay-per-view, United and its big friends, such as Liverpool, Arsenal and Newcastle United, will want a bigger slice of the cake. This will lead to the break-up of the collective negotiating structure — even without the intervention of its biggest critic, the Director General of Fair Trading.

Political spin

□ REASSURANCE about Labour's "relatively modest" reform plans for the utilities came in a recent note from Philip Hollobone, analyst at Williams de Bro: "Strong balance sheets and large potential cost savings should help cushion any blow." Voters in Lewisham East should ask for more pre-election investment advice when Mr Hollobone appears on their doorsteps. He is their Conservative candidate.

Sterling hits Burmah's performance

By CARL MORTISHED

PRICE cutting by competitors and the strength of the pound are keeping profits growth in check at Burmah Castrol, the lubricants company that makes Castrol GTX motor oil. The cost of the dearer pound is expected to continue this year and Burmah is cutting overheads, closing a US blending plant at a cost of \$10 million.

The strength of sterling against the dollar and the mark held back earnings growth by 3 percentage points last year, said Jonathan Fry, chief executive. Pre-tax profit grew 3 per cent to £261 million in 1996 but, translating 1996 profits at current exchange rates, growth would have been 6 per cent. Mr Fry gave warning that the pain would get worse if rates remain unchanged: "We have to earn 9 per cent more country by country to stay level because of the strong pound."

However, Burmah is raising the payout for the year 10

per cent to 36.8p with a final dividend of 24.8p (11.2p) paid out of foreign earnings. Because of special factors, Burmah is able to enhance the foreign income dividend by 6.2p, raising the total payout to 43p, up 14 per cent.

Burmah's lubricant earnings rose 6 per cent to £210 million at constant currencies, mainly because of the continuing strength of Asian markets. Overall, Burmah's volumes rose only 3 per cent and lubricant profits fell in Europe and North America.

Mr Fry cited the BP/Mobil merger as having a depressing effect on prices in Europe. "They have been pursuing market share very aggressively," he said. In an effort to cut costs in the competitive US market, Burmah is to close a lubricants blending plant in New Jersey and source the product from a third party.

Tempos, page 28

Nat Power and RJB join forces

By OLIVER AUGUST

RJB MINING, England's main coal producer, has teamed up with National Power, the electricity generator, to pioneer a "clean coal" power station.

Together with Texaco, the US oil group, the two companies will spend several million pounds to study the feasibility of building the 400 megawatt station adjacent to RJB's Kellingley colliery in Yorkshire.

Using clean coal is environmentally friendlier but considerably more expensive than using ordinary coal or gas in electricity generation.

Richard Budge, the RJB chief executive, said Britain's national security partly depended on the development of a clean coal capability, possibly the only acceptable form of domestic fuel production in 20 years. The cost of building the plant is expected to be £300 million.

Keith Henry, National Power's chief executive, said: "As the country's largest coal user, we are anxious to investigate all options to secure the future for coal."

Tempos, page 28

Airtours stake sold for £31m

By GEORGE SIVELL

TOM TRICKETT, the co-founder of Airtours with David Crossland, the chairman, yesterday sold 3.4 million shares in the travel company at 925p each, raising £31.45 million.

Mr Trickett, brother-in-law of Mr Crossland, retired from the company in 1994 although remained a non-executive director until last year.

He is said by advisers to be selling the shares for tax planning reasons. Mr Trickett had an arrangement with Mr Crossland to vote his shares with the chairman and not to sell the shares without consent. The agreement with Mr Crossland was ended before yesterday's disposal. The Airtours share price remained unchanged, at 940½p.

□ Hambro Countrywide revealed that Harry Hill, its managing director, had made an instant profit of £350,000 from share options. Mr Hill exercised options on 1 million shares at 40p each last week and sold 1 million shares in the market at 125p each. Shares in Hambro Countrywide remained unchanged, at 124½p yesterday. Mr Hill's stake stays at 0.043 per cent.

Study finds no sign of housing boom

THE housing market is not on the verge of a 1980s-style boom and is unlikely to fuel inflation, according to a report out today (Alasdair Murray writes).

Simon Briscoe, UK economist with Nikko Europe, argues that although the housing market saw a "boomlet" in 1996, house price inflation remains modest by historical standards, and structural changes will help to restrain it. The recovery in house prices remains patchy, with prices

rising last year by an average of 8 per cent — barely a third of the rise seen in 1988. In real terms, house values remain 30 per cent below peak levels. Transactions are at about 60 per cent of late-1980s levels.

Mr Briscoe says changes in the labour market have made consumers feel more insecure, and made it harder to get a loan. He expects low inflation to hold the market back, with people unable to rely on inflation to help them over bad buys.

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AIRLINES

STOCK MARKET

CLARE STEWART

Wall Street helps London to regain its confidence

THE stock market shrugged off pre-election uncertainties and took its cue from America to notch up a confident start to the week.

As sterling strengthened against the mark to climb through its old ERM floor, the FT-SE 100 held on to gains to end the day 35.1 points ahead at 4,271.7. However, several large stocks, such as Unilever and Pearson, went ex-dividend, trimming the index rise by several points.

Dealers reported busy trade in British Steel, BT and National Grid, with modest volumes overall at 683 million.

The market had drugs on its mind for much of the day. SmithKline Beecham led the FT-SE 100 with a rise of 35.1p to 893p, helped by the strength of the dollar and Wall Street's rise, while Zeneca jumped 22.2p to £17.62½ after the UK launch of Zomig, its new migraine drug.

Glaxo Wellcome may be tempted to reach for the Zomig after losing its appeal in the US against alleged infringement of Zantac, its patent for ulcer treatment. The shares eased 4p to £10.50 after the decision, which clears the way for Novopharm to sell its own form of the treatment. Shares in Holliday Chemical, a supplier to Novopharm, jumped 13p to 152p.

Among the second-liners, Chiroscience added 7p to 37p after announcing a research alliance with Alcon Laboratories.

Tepnel Life Sciences enjoyed its moment in the biotech spotlight as its shares leapt 49p to a new high of 125p, making it also the market's highest mover. Weekend comment sparked interest in the group. Tepnel is developing two DNA diagnostic systems, but the group yesterday played down suggestions that an announcement was imminent. Kit Madden, chairman, said the group was hitting the targets outlined at the time of the rights issue last year. Losses of £2.5 million are forecast for the year to June.

Others in the sector failed to share the glory as Drew Scientific reversed recent gains with a fall of 47.4p to 150p after cautious brokers' comment, while Shalex Diagnostics dropped 20p to 63.5p.

Analysts warmed to results from Burmah Castrol, the oil and chemical fuels group where Jonathan Fry is chief executive. It reported a 10 per



Good news from Jonathan Fry, left, and Brian Hardy, finance director, of Burmah Castrol, put 16½p on the shares

cent increase in underlying net income. The shares jumped 16½p to £10.14, helped by a number of buy recommendations and despite Burmah's caution on the impact of a strong pound.

ICI was boosted 14p to 714½p by a strong dollar and reports of a £1 billion offer for Unilever's specialty chemicals division, while Hanson

coal power station fuelled a 10 per cent jump in RJB shares, up 35½p to 390½p.

British Boreas, the oil exploration group, found less to cheer about as its shares lost further ground, plunging 89p to £13.02½. The fall comes after a disappointing drilling report last week capped an earlier run and prompted bearish comment.

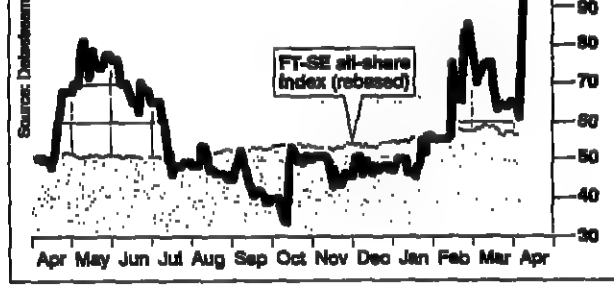
Watch out for United Overseas Group, which makes its debut today. A premium of 10p-20p is expected on the 50p placing price for the group, which specialises in buying up excess stock from leading consumer goods manufacturers. The placing will raise £17.3 million, valuing the group at £60 million.

added 6½p to 280½p on talk of plans to sell its electrical subsidiary.

BG was again in demand, with nearly 17 million shares changing hands. The shares moved up 5p to 178½p.

News of National Power joining forces with RJB Mining and Texaco to assess the feasibility of constructing the UK's first large-scale clean

Shares in Prism Railways were knocked off course after the publication of a report warning that five of the new private rail operators are on track for financial difficulties. AIM-quoted Prism, which operates four franchises, saw its shares drop sharply before recovering to close 10p lower at 345p, while angrily refuting the report's claims. The Go-



Ahead Group, which operates the Thames Trains, saw its shares slide 14p lower to 488½p. National Express, which operates the North London route, dipped 3½p to 551½p. Stagecoach dropped 2½p to 646p.

A record half-time result at Manchester United, with profits up 27 per cent to £19.5 million, added just a penny to its share price at 642p. Sheffield United retreated 6p to 63p. It announced the £2 million sale of four sportswear divisions, including the UK licence for the Le Coq Sportif brand.

London Clubs, the casino operator, dropped back 7p to 401½p after the surprise referral of its bid for Capital Corp to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Its bid has now lapsed and Capital Corp ended 14p lower at 186p.

Trafficmaster saw its shares drop 9p to 323½p after reporting increased losses of £3.4 million with no dividend.

A profits warning from Universal Salvage prompted a sharp fall in its share price, down 67½p to 135p, a drop of 33 per cent. A snapper result from Moss Bros, with a 41 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £16 million, helped to lift shares 15p to £13.97½.

Housebuilders were gloomy after a downbeat report on the state of the housing market from Nikko Europe, the brokers. Barrat Developments ended 5p lower at 257½p.

Flying Flowers dipped 2½p to 270p after two directors each sold a small number of shares, while renewed bid talk helped Pizza Express to head back towards £7 with a 28½p rise to 695p.

■ **GILT-EDGED:** The London market moved up in line with its European counterparts in early trading, but slipped back as dealers were tempted to take profits, switching into overseas bonds.

The June series of the long gilt moved up £1½ to £109½, with volumes described as an average Monday at 50,000. Treasury 8 per cent 2000 edged up ½p to £102½, while Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was up ¼p, also at £102½.

■ **NEW YORK:** Shares and bonds were higher in what analysts said was primarily a technical rally. By midday the Dow Jones Industrial Average was 50.99 points ahead at 6,577.06.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	6577.06 (+50.99)
S&P Composite	763.37 (+5.47)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	17715.67 (+14.92)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	12287.84 (+83.25)
Amsterdam:	
BOE Index	727.59 (+19.18)
Sydney:	
AO	2373.2 (+3.7)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	3312.88 (+67.95)
Singapore:	
Straits	2388.14 (+12.56)
Brussels:	
General	11625.87 (+179.17)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2572.31 (+54.34)
Zurich:	
S&K Gen	952.70 (+18.83)
London:	
FTSE 100	4271.7 (+35.1)
FTSE 250	4518.4 (+34.8)
FTSE 350	4164.4 (+14.8)
FTSE Europe 100	2136.34 (+36.19)
FTSE All-Share	2077.88 (+12.91)
FTSE Non Financials	2191.72 (+8.59)
FTSE Financials	1163.81 (+40.04)
FTSE Govt Sec	9165.0 (+2.24)
Bargains	54981
SEAQ Volume	680,570
US\$	1.6297 (+0.0010)
German Mark	1.2829 (+0.038)
Exchange Index	99.4 (+0.8)
Bank of England official close (Hpm)	
ESDR	1.1823
RPI	155.0 Feb 12.7% Jan 1987-100
RPIX	154.5 Feb 12.9% Jan 1987-100

RECENT ISSUES

Aurora Inv Trust	100
Avalon Oil	98½
Aviva Europe	28½
Atkinson	41½
Cambridge Anti	57½
Charlton Athletic	60½
Close Bros Pro VCT	98
Diagonal	299½
Donatantonio	72
Harvey Nash	183½
Heals	209½
Hepshire Group	117½
London Bridge Shw	295½
M & G High Pckg	50½
M & G High Pckg	101
Newcastle Unit	139
Oxford Tech Venture	95
Pathfinder Properties	45
Presbury Leisure	2½
Q Group	118½
Torch Hlgs	107½
Whitehead Mann	144½
Worldsec	181
Worldsec	177

RIGHTS ISSUES

Blucore n/p (9)	20½
Blucore n/p (75)	20½
JXX Oil & Gas n/p (34)	7
Partico n/p (300)	9½
Saville Gordon n/p (55)	4

MAJOR CHANGES

Acorn Comp	240p (+25p)
Holiday Inn	158p (+13p)
Channing	187p (+10p)
Druck	295p (+12p)
Smithline	893p (+38p)
Flextech	515p (+17p)
Falls:	
Capital Corp	186p (-14p)
Innovative Tech	220p (-15p)
Scried Diag	652p (-20p)
Capita Gp	655p (-22p)
Primus Rail	945p (-10p)
Go-Ahead	488p (-14p)
Cold Gp	757p (-15p)

Closing Prices Page 31

TEMPUS

Oil pressure builds up

STERLING is a bit of a red herring for Burmah Castrol investors. As if to prove that the strength of the underlying business was not affected, Burmah raised its base dividend a full 10 per cent, despite the stunted growth in underlying profits. Losses incurred from translating overseas profits into sterling accounts are an irritation for any international business and Burmah's lubricants operation is not about exports but local production and distribution. In many countries, a weak dollar and falling crude oil price is a help.

But there is a competition issue for Burmah and it lies in Europe and North America. In the latter market, enormous investment has been pumped into persuading US consumers to buy synthetic motor oils at three or four times the price of conventional products. But consumers have stayed away in droves and

competition has intensified in a market that is not growing. Better cars are using less oil and without the incentive from new (and more expensive) products, Burmah and its rivals will be hard pushed to prise more dollars from motorists. Meanwhile, in Europe, price erosion is a problem with the combined BP and Mobil passing on some of the merger savings to consumers, gaining market share.

It is an article of faith for Burmah that lubricants, unlike petrol, are not a commodity and can sustain premium prices. Indeed, Burmah's brand has taken India by storm, amassing a 20 per cent share in the space of a few years. But the challenge is greater in a nil-growth market and while big lubricant brands have some value in the developed world, the pressure to use price to gain market share could become irresistible.

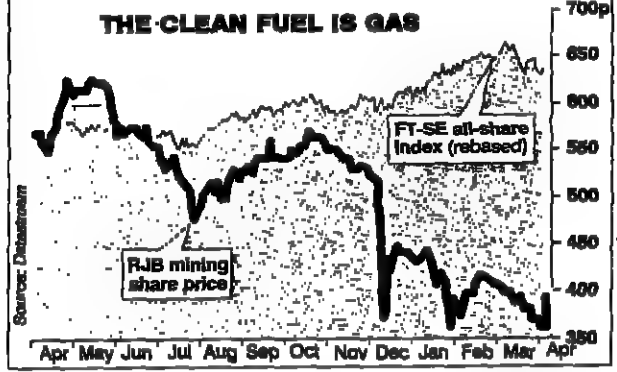
RJB Mining

BRITAIN'S biggest generator is making a commitment to the long-term future of coal in its tie-up with RJB and Texaco for the development of a clean-coal power station. But behind the scenes a more important battle is being waged over the near term future of UK coal.

The generators and RJB are locked in crucial talks over long-term contracts for dirty coal to feed the new plant. They replace agreements entered into by the Government when it sold off British Coal and they will be the first deals to be negotiated by a privatised electricity industry intent on extracting a tough deal from RJB, the biggest coal producer in Britain. Set against RJB is the cheap price of gas, a clean source of energy that has become the fuel of choice

for electricity generation. It is those contracts which will shape the future of coal in the UK. The generators are free to buy from whomever they choose and while they will maintain a commitment to UK coal, they will use the threat of cheap coal imports to force RJB's hand. The generators will remain big coal consumers despite the

dash for gas and the proximity of power stations to Britain's coalfields would make it folly to use too much imported coal. Nevertheless, the production cost of South African, Australian and Eastern coal is far less than that produced in by RJB and the latter will need more than a clean coal project to secure itself a healthy future.



Capital Corp

IAN LANG, President of the Board of Trade, has developed a debt movement that helps him to reduce his workload and increase his operational efficiency as a Minister. Whenever a competition issue arises on his in-tray, a quick flick of the wrist sends it to the out-tray, after which it leaves the office or remains in limbo until the arrival of his replacement after May 1.

Gas, ferries and now post-casinos. A loss of competition in the latter market is unlikely to arouse the ire of a consumer watchdog. Those interested in the service provided by London Clubs and Capital Corporation tend to be very shy and very rich, and often live abroad for large months of the year. The last time that such issues were aired was in early 1980s, when Pleasurama attempted to take over Triton TV and the concern was over similar market shares with a poten-

tial dominant owner of more than 60 per cent of the London casino market.

Why should anyone care? In theory, there are three concerns. A player refused credit at one casino owned by the dominant operator, for whatever reason, would have fewer places left at which to lose his money. Likewise, if the Gaming Board chose to punish such a large operator for a misdemeanour, the result could be closure of two thirds of London's casinos.

These worries are rendered nugatory by the knowledge that casinos share information about banned players and the Gaming Board has other means to punish casino operators than mass closure. The real concern is that of rival operators. They claim that in a more deregulated casino market, London Clubs will have too much clout to promote its establishments to known, high rollers. They may worry Ladbrokes, but it would be rather convenient if the outcome were that the

MMC forced London Clubs to sell one of its casinos.

Moss Bros

IF CHAPS in new suits is an economic indicator, we are in a boom, at least according to sales figures from Moss Bros. Suit sales are on the increase, and Moss Bros has the right formula, carefully positioning its product at the right price points for specific consumers, enabling it to take market share from other, less savvy, operators. The result is strong sales and margins, and cash flow that can finance a healthy store development programme as well as pay dividends. Interest and tax.

Moss Bros now faces two challenges, improving margins in Blazer, the preppy menswear chain, and finding a suitable investment to gear its business. With earnings growing at this rate, it can well afford a more risky balance sheet.

EDITED BY CARL MORTIMER

COMMODITIES

LIFE

Cocoa	
May	994.900
Jul	1004.100
Sep	1009.100
Nov	1014.100
Jan	1019.100
Mar	1024.100
May	1029.100
Jul	1034.100
Sep	1039.100
Nov	1044.100
Jan	1049.100
Mar	1054.100
May	1059.100
Jul	1064.100
Sep	1069.100
Nov	1074.100
Jan	1079.100
Mar	1084.100
May	1089.100
Jul	1094.100
Sep	1099.100
Nov	1104.100
Jan	1109.100
Mar	1114.100
May	1119.100
Jul	1124.100
Sep	1129.100
Nov	1134.100
Jan	1139.100
Mar	1144.100
May	1149.100
Jul	1154.100
Sep	1159.100
Nov	1164.100
Jan	1169.100
Mar	1174.100
May	1179.100
Jul	1184.100
Sep	1189.100
Nov	1194.100
Jan	1199.100
Mar	1204.100
May	1209.100
Jul	1214.100
Sep	1219.100
Nov	1224.100
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Mar	1234.100
May	1239.100
Jul	1244.100
Sep	1249.100
Nov	1254.100
Jan	1259.100
Mar	1264.100
May	1269.100
Jul	1274.100
Sep	1279.100
Nov	1284.100
Jan	1289.100
Mar	1294.100
May	1299.100
Jul	1304.100
Sep	1309.100
Nov	1314.100
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Nov	1404.100
Jan	1409.100
Mar	1414.100
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Jul	1424.100
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Sep	1579.100
Nov	1584.100
Jan	1589.100
Mar	1594.100
May	1599.100
Jul	1604.100
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Jul	1904.100
Sep	1909.100
Nov	1914.100
Jan	1919.100
Mar	1924.100
May	1929.100
Jul	19

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Joint venture for dynasties

CONGRATULATIONS to Andrew Buxton, chairman of Barclays Bank, on the engagement of his youngest daughter.

Two banking dynasties are to unite with the forthcoming marriage of Veronica Buxton, 27, and Michael Barlow, 30, the third son of millionaire merchant banker Sir John Barlow, and his wife, Susan, of Bulkeley Grange in Malpas, Cheshire.

Sir John, chairman of the family firm Thomas Barlow & Bros and a former high sheriff of Cheshire, is a familiar figure on the county hunting circuit. The motto on the Barlow coat of arms? *Qui non proficit deficit*.

Kenyon transfer

NICE to see Peter Kenyon has finally made it to the board of a Premiership club. Currently living in the US, the chairman of football strip-makers Umbro International was originally in the frame as a non-executive director of Sunderland, but he bowed out prior to the flotation of the Tyne and Wear club. Now Kenyon is abandoning Umbro to become a director of its biggest client, Manchester United. His brief? To develop Manchester United the brand.

On the board

DENISE KINGSMILL, the incoming deputy chairman of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, has been appointed to the board of the Norwich and Peterborough Building Society. A graduate trainee at ICI and a former marketing executive for the International Wool Secretariat, she combined her role as a mother with qualifying as a solicitor. She is a consultant for Denton Hall, and is, not surprisingly, committed to mutuality.



Kingsmill: committed to concept of mutuality

COMET is cashing in on building society windfalls. According to a survey commissioned by the electrical retailer, more than a third of those aged under 24 who hold a building society account qualify for a payout plan to spend their windfall on electrical products. This compares with 10 per cent in the 45 to 65-year-old bracket and 18 per cent of those aged 22 to 44.

Crest of a wave

LICHFIELD GIN is to make its debut at next week's Hanover Industry Fair. Produced by William Grant & Son, to an original recipe, its green and gold label features the Earl of Lichfield's crest. Another batch will be on its way to Hong Kong later this month, on the last voyage of the Royal Yacht Britannia to promote British exports throughout Asia and the Far East.

THE more expensive the company car, the less likely a woman will be allowed to drive it, according to research from Cowie, the motor retailers and company car management specialists. Cars valued at £45,000 or more were driven almost exclusively by men. Meanwhile cars valued at £9,000 or less were driven almost solely by women.

MORAG PRESTON



Lord Paul was among an audience of business leaders listening to Tony Blair in the City yesterday. Labour launches its business manifesto on Friday

Blair prepares executives to do business with Labour

Philip Bassett believes that the party and industry have reached an accommodation

Tony Blair's foray into the City yesterday prompted a raging pre-election row over privatisation. Though making explicit a shift on public ownership is significant, the thrust of the Labour leader's remarks, and of the business manifesto Labour is to launch this week, embodies a fundamental realignment between Labour and business.

Leading Conservatives leapt on Mr Blair's remarks about public ownership as ammunition for charges of a fresh new Labour swerving, Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, accused Mr Blair of a "preposterous and humiliating U-turn", while Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, attacked Labour as "unprincipled scoundrels", insisting that "you cannot put people who are making it up as they go along in charge of the national economy".

But Labour leadership sources emphasised that his statement was a specific expression of the key shift in Blair's thinking which Mr Blair's rewriting of Clause 4 of its constitution embodied, balancing a commitment to social justice with a commitment to a strong enterprise economy.

Labour's pragmatic stance on privatisation — as Mr Blair put it yesterday, "what matters is what works" — will be red electoral meat in the daily scrapping before polling day. But behind the political prizefighting, business will be interested in the detail of what Mr Blair said yesterday — and what Labour's business manifesto will say when it is launched on Friday.

Business leaders listening directly to Mr Blair at the Corn Exchange in the City broadly welcomed what he said. Danny Bernstein, managing director of Monarch Airlines, said: "It was a very positive message, a very strong message and a very consistent message." John Jackson, chairman of Ladbrokes, agreed about its positive impact, and said: "Hopefully business is being taken out of politics." Christopher Mackenzie, president of financial services company G E Capital Europe, welcomed in particular what the Labour leader said on Europe: "He was saying Britain should not stand on the sidelines throwing tomatoes but have a constructive relationship with Europe."

Business leaders more broadly will concentrate closely on Labour's new business manifesto — perhaps noting

that Labour is the only party that is launching a pre-election statement aimed specifically at business, traditionally seen as a bastion of support for the Conservatives.

The document draws together and clarifies two policy documents on business that Labour issued last autumn within a few days of each other. One, *New opportunities for business*, complete with a Tony Blair forward and cover picture, set out in glossy terms the Labour leadership's view of its changed relationship with business. The other, *Vision for growth: a new industrial strategy for Britain*, complete with a forward from Margaret Beckett, Labour's Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, was a dourer product (even after intervention by the leader's office), slipped out almost unnoticed on the day that Mr Blair arrived at the TUC's annual conference in Blackpool on a high-profile visit.

Business was confused by what it saw as two distinctly different messages, embodied in the style, approach and content of the two documents, and wanted to know what was the real Labour line. Labour leadership sources lost little time in privately telling them, though since then Mrs Beckett has come in considerably from the cold, right into the new Labour front rank — and significantly it was Mrs Beckett who yesterday hit the airwaves to defend and explain Mr Blair's Corn Exchange speech, after having herself struck a similar note on privatisation some weeks ago in a BBC TV *On the Record* interview.

The privatisation row and the full election combat, together with the

Conservatives' relative success in managing to drag the hoary issue of Labour's relations with the trade unions back on to the electoral agenda, mean that the launch of the business manifesto, to be called *Equipping Britain for the Future*, will now garner a degree of attention greater than it would have done before the election was called.

The document will contain key sections on macroeconomic stability; on rewards at work, including taxes and benefits and Labour's new deal for the long-term unemployed; on modern labour markets, including labour-market flexibility, education and skills; on small firms; on strong leadership in Europe; and on additional issues such as inward investment, export promotion and business and the environment.

In doing so, it will draw together most of what Labour wants to see in its relationship with business, such as the end of old Labour tax and spend; the importance of economic discipline, low inflation, low interest rates; a blend of job market change with minimum employment standards, focused on new investment in education and skills; attacking, as the CBI wanted, the "drag anchor" on business of long-term unemployment with new welfare-to-work proposals; and a more constructive role in Europe.

Business remains sceptical about how far a Labour government, if one were to be elected, would be able to enact such pledges. But while business still doesn't much want to see Labour in power, its judgment is that it is going to see that; and if it is, it wants to take part in it, to influence it, to steer a

Labour government led by Mr Blair in a pro-business direction.

At present, business is wary. CBI leaders, for instance, felt bruised when their conversations with Labour leaders were recently presented as involvement in drafting this week's business manifesto — though they felt equally bruised by the Conservative backlash, the whole episode doing little more than stiffening their resolve to try to steer a politically neutral course.

But behind that wariness is a real interest in what Labour is proposing, though in many areas it stops well short of enthusiasm — business is not ever going to like the minimum wage or Labour's intention to sign the European social charter, and certainly does not want to see any return to 1960s and 1970s-style tripartite corporatism, combining with the Government and the trade unions to run the economy, and not being startlingly successful at it.

Business leaders like what they have seen of Mr Blair, and at least some of his lieutenants. In a single week recently, for instance, CBI leaders met privately and separately with Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, and Stephen Byers, Labour's employee relations spokesman. Many accept that a Labour government would not damage the economy in the way that the Conservatives are warning, and some believe that Labour's more positive line on Europe in particular would genuinely help business — especially exporters — to compete in increasingly tough and increasingly global markets.

Such views enrage Conservative leaders, who believe that business is falling prey to the lure of new Labour, while forgetting the benefits won under the Conservatives.

Business will probably like most of what it sees from Labour on Friday, much as many leaders liked what they heard from Mr Blair yesterday — even if they doubt that the rest of his party has as yet fully taken to heart his views on privatisation, for instance. Despite Conservative criticisms, and despite business still not wanting Labour to win and having considerable reservations about what will happen if it does, business and Labour look to have reached an accommodation: Labour thinks that it can do business with business, and business thinks it can do business with Labour.



Tony Blair is realigning Labour

No need to ask who owns what if regulation is on the right track

Tom Winsor says watchdogs should be given more bite if the public interest is to be served

Ownership of the assets of privatised utilities is irrelevant. The heart of the argument about their future lies in how they should be operated and to what ends, not about who owns the kit. Without regulation, the owners of the assets can more or less do what they like. With regulation, brakes can be put on the owners, while the public interest in ensuring proper stewardship and the efficient and fair provision of essential services can be protected.

The welcome reality is that now, at last, that is what the debate is about. It will be a relief to shareholders and the privatised industries that never again will there be talk of renationalisation. But it might concern them rather more if a future government were to decide that the existing regulatory controls and institutions have not worked well enough, and that change is needed. They would want to know the consequences of such change.

Nationalisation was done to protect the public interest. The old remedy of the 1940s was to acquire full public ownership of the assets, so that the assets could be operated to achieve public interest rather than private sector objectives. But if the motive of public ownership is the protection of the public interest, it should have been realised — as it has been now — that the public interest in the proper and responsible operation of essential assets can be protected very effectively if there is in place a proper regulatory regime.

The regulators of the privatised industries have far more actual power over the industries they regulate than

ministers ever had in the past. The regulators' instruments of control — price setting, efficiency, fair competition and so on — are far sharper and more focused than any tool that a Minister could use against the semi-autonomous board of a nationalised industry.

So, with a system of public interest regulation already in place and the ownership of important utilities now in private hands, the questions that face future governments are not how to reacquire ownership, but first, what is the public interest that needs protection and, second, whether the existing regulatory framework is working. The right regulatory changes, if any are needed, will be costless. If changes are needed and nothing is done, or the changes made are the wrong ones, they will cost dear because public interest will have been harmed.

The public interest is in efficiency and economy of public services, proper renewal investment, fair prices, beneficial competition and good quality: the right services at the right times and the right prices. So, do the current regulatory arrangements measure up? Whatever the objectives of a future government, it would be a mistake to make the regulators the puppets of Ministers. A regulator can take a long-term view of his industry, and it would be tragic if that were lost with a return to annualised and intrusive political control. But if the industry receives substan-

tial amounts of public subsidy — railways, for example, receive £2 billion a year — the case for more accountability for the spending of that money is a good one. But how much more accountability? Reform should not harm the commercial certainty and stability that companies need for investment. If



the flame of regulation is turned up too high, the cost of capital will rise as well, and that may drive up prices.

There are flaws in the regulatory regimes. Some of those can be weeded out using the change mechanisms already built into the regulatory systems. Others will require legislation. For example, in railways,

Railtrack's investment spending obligations are non-existent, despite the fact that over time they are being paid to renew the network, not just maintain it in steady state. That should be put right. Competition law enforcement is woefully slow and weak. The rail and telecoms regulators have put that right by designing new powers for themselves that sidestep the Office of Fair Trading and concentrate greater powers in their own hands. Other regulators will probably follow suit.

Effective regulation can easily be hampered by poor information in the hands of regulators, although some companies regard it as in their interests to confuse and overload their regulators with information in the hope that they will not find what they are looking for. The quality and efficiency of regulation is immensely important and the regulators should be equipped with better powers and resources to secure and analyse crucial information. The decisions of regulators must be made on the best possible factual and analytical bases.

Regulators should give full reasons for their decisions. They should not perpetuate the practices of some who pretend that a statement of the effects of a decision is the same as explaining why that decision has been taken. Asset disposals can rob an industry and its dependent users of things essential to its development. In

some industries, the regulatory controls on the infrastructure operators selling off key assets are far from good enough. That too must be put right.

Quality standards for services that regulation requires companies to provide need effective policing. Socially necessary services should be protected, as the case of South West Trains has illustrated.

The efficiency and economy of privatised companies is crucial to the wider economy. Infrastructure operators should publish clear information about their networks and their plans for enhancing them in a form that enables dependent users and new entrants to make sound investment decisions. And they should adopt fair and efficient commercial practices that promote the interests of the whole industry. Where there is unnecessary complexity in the contractual arrangements for the industry, they should be simplified. All this can be done quickly and easily, if the will is there.

The Labour Party has made it clear that sound public interest regulation is at the heart of its policy for the privatised industries. In doing so, they have chosen both the most effective and the cheapest instrument for protecting the public interest. If they get the chance to implement that policy, they should do so only with a thorough understanding of how the regulatory regimes work and a clear policy on public interest objectives. To do so would be to consign ownership issues to the dustbin of history. The author is a partner of the City law firm Denton Hall specialising in the regulation of privatised utilities.



JANET BUSH

Tax claims are fooling no one

Britain's two main parties are so frightened of the question of tax, so committed to defensive vacuity on one hand and meaningless mud-slinging on the other that they have virtually neutralised each other on the issue. The Liberal Democrats are offering the electorate symbolic rises in the basic and higher rates of tax, safe in the knowledge that they will never implement them.

Nobody is talking any sense on tax; most voters know it and do not seem to care. The first MORI poll of the campaign for *The Times* showed that most people believe that a victorious Labour Party would raise income tax, despite its pledges to leave the main rates unchanged for the duration of the next Parliament. Yet Labour's opinion poll lead over the Conservatives was undiminished.

A survey last week by *Accountancy Age* magazine and Reed Accountancy Personnel found that more than half of the finance chiefs at UK companies felt that taxes ought to be raised after the election to pay for genuine improvements to the health service, education and law and order. Of the 37 per cent who opposed higher taxes, 80 per cent thought they would happen anyway. And, for the record, only 2 per cent of those questioned thought tax rises were more likely under Labour.

Barring another stunning fall from grace by one of our parliamentarians, tax will this week return to centre stage as the Institute for Fiscal Studies publishes its views on the outlook for taxes and spending and makes a judgement on the claims and counter claims of the campaign. It is not likely to make comfortable reading for either of the main election contenders.

The Institute has been expressing trenchant views on Britain's fiscal position ever since the Budget last November. Although much of the worrying on the public finances in the Treasury has revolved around tax revenues since the great VAT black hole scare a while ago, revenues have since picked up along with the economy and are running close to official forecasts. The real problem

facing the next government is public spending.

Andrew Dilnot, the IFS's director, was in blunt mood last month. The spending plans in the Red Book, to which Gordon Brown has committed himself for the first two years of a Labour government, "would have been regarded as too draconian by Margaret Thatcher" and could be described as "Ken Clarke's joke at Labour's expense".

Put plans for health spending in historical context and you see what he means. In the tax years from 1996-97 to 1999-2000, health spending is planned to rise 0.6 per cent and then 0.8 per cent. In years three and four, spending is planned to fall 0.8 per cent and then be flat. Cumulatively, this is growth of 0.7 per cent, compared with the 12.5 per cent which would, on average, have been expected in any four years you care to take in a long-run trend.

Under the successive Governments of Mrs Thatcher, for example, health spending averaged growth of 3 per cent a year. Total spending is planned to grow by 0.1, 0.3, 0.4 and 0.6 per cent in the same four years, a profile which Mr Dilnot describes as "apparently not from this planet".

None of the parties have faced up to the fiscal realities, and it is not just a question of the very tight spending plans over the next Parliament.

The truth is that Britain is more lightly taxed than virtually any other European economy, and if we British voters want better public services or even to maintain the standard of the ones we have, we will have to accept radical changes in how they are delivered — ie, finance many of them directly out of our own pockets — or pay higher taxes.

If there is to be radical change, the front-end costs will be huge. None of this will figure in the run-up to May 1 and, in a country in which low taxation has become an unquestioned plank of the centrist consensus, it is arguable whether it ever will be debated openly. The fact that the British public accepts this conspiracy of silence is testament to how often governments have lied about tax in the past.



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Shares win back some lost ground

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	98	100	98	0	0	100
100	98	100	98	0	0	100

BANKS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	98	100	98	0	0	100
100	98	100	98	0	0	100

BREWERY, PUBS & REST

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	98	100	98	0	0	100
100	98	100	98	0	0	100

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	98	100	98	0	0	100
100	98	100	98	0	0	100

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	98	100	98	0	0	100
100	98	100	98	0	0	100

ELECTRICITY

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	98	100	98	0	0	100
100	98	100	98	0	0	100

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	98	100	98	0	0	100
100	98	100	98	0	0	100

BUILDING MATERIALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	98	100	98	0	0	100
100	98	100	98	0	0	100

CHEMICALS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	98	100	98	0	0	100
100	98	100	98	0	0	100

DISTRIBUTORS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	98	100	98	0	0	100
100	98	100	98	0	0	100

ENGINEERING

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	98	100	98	0	0	100
100	98	100	98	0	0	100

INSURANCE

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	98	100	98	0	0	100
100	98	100	98	0	0	100

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	98	100	98	0	0	100
100	98	100	98	0	0	100

SHORTS (under 5 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	98	100	98	0	0	100
100	98	100	98	0	0	100

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	98	100	98	0	0	100
100	98	100	98	0	0	100

SHORTS (5 to 15 years)

High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
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SHORTS (over 15 years)

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

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BREWERY, PUBS & REST

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DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

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BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

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ELECTRONIC & ELECT

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BUILDING MATERIALS

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CHEMICALS

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DISTRIBUTORS

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INVESTMENT TRUSTS

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SHORTS (under 5 years)

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INVESTMENT TRUSTS

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SHORTS (5 to 15 years)

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SHORTS (5 to 15 years)

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

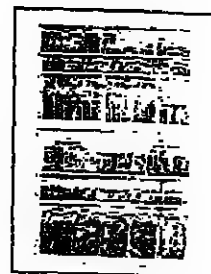
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THE TIMES LIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Amal



■ VISUAL ART 1

Ranging from the characteristically provocative work of the enfant terrible Damien Hirst ...



■ VISUAL ART 2

... to Sarah Lucas's disturbing concoctions: the Hayward Gallery shows the best of British sculpture

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ VISUAL ART 3

Recent large paintings by Patrick Caulfield go on show in the Waddington Galleries



■ TOMORROW

Going into the round: curtain up on a bold experiment at the National Theatre

Intimations of a strange mortality

VISUAL ART: At the Hayward, Richard Cork inspects the transfiguration of 'everyday stuff'

Shying away from the word "sculpture", the Hayward Gallery's new show nevertheless teems with physical objects. Whether scavenged in a skip or bought at a supermarket, made from scratch or cast from life, these bits and pieces of the late 20th century punctuate their wide, white spaces with anxiety, wit, irony, pleasure, fear and wonder. The survey's dour title, *Material Culture*, strikes a forbidding note. But the selected artists ensure that the experiences on offer here escape from sobriety into a strange and unpredictable world.

The 45 participants all work in Britain, and their contributions range in date from the late 1970s to 1996. If it had been a strictly chronological affair, the show would start in earnest with the generation responsible for the so-called New Sculpture of the early 1980s. But Tony Cragg, Richard Deacon, Bill Woodrow and their contemporaries are scattered among younger artists. So this is a free-wheeling exhibition that defies tight categories and encourages us to look afresh at even the most familiar individuals.

The first room is certainly provocative. Dangling from the ceiling is a colossal, swollen lump of cast iron by Antony Gormley. Called *Still Falling*, it seems utterly at variance with the thousands of clay figurines who crowded the gallery floor when he last showed at the Hayward. But *Still Falling* is a product of the same singed involvement with the human figure. A mould of the artist's body provided the springboard, and he then took a second mould measured at a distance from the first. The outcome is mysterious, oddly bloated, and more akin to an expanded vegetable than a male nude.

In this respect, it yields surprising connections with the otherwise very different work by Damien Hirst on a neighbouring wall. His title, *The Lovers* (*Spontaneous, Committed, Detached, Compromising*) suggests something freighted with messy, conflicting emotions. Instead, Hirst presents four cabinets with clinical precision, each containing cows' organs in jars of different sizes. Although far less exposed and alarming than his *Mother and Child Divided* at the Tate's Turner Prize show, the jars' contents still have the ability to disturb.

If Hirst and Gormley invite us to think about the body's physicality, Anish Kapoor pushes solid form to the edge of dissolution. His *Untitled Mirror*, gleaming at the far

end of the first room, is a vast, concave, stainless-steel dish. Highly polished, it initially provides upside-down reflections of the gallery. As I approached, though, my body gradually filled the mirror with darkness. Peering further in still, I found a normal reflection at last. But the moment of physical extinction lingers in my memory, and in that respect it turns out to have unexpected links with *Is Suicide Genetic?*, Sarah Lucas's nearby exhibit.

Her scorched and disintegrating armchair testifies to a disaster, and the work's gruesome title indicates that self-inflicted death by fire has occurred. But a helmet, meticulously constructed from cigarettes, sits on the battered seat. Did its maker once try to

Could these glacial chambers harbour corpses?

combat despair by smoking? Lucas provides no answer, but leaves us in no doubt about the desperate, almost absurd plight of the person whose life is supposedly memorialised.

Throughout, the appearance and disappearance of the human body is a major theme. In the long downstairs space, the 21 glass plates comprising Christine Borland's *"From life"*, Berlin are ranged around the walls. Gradually traces of dust become visible on the glass. And with the help of the gallery's lighting, we discover faint shapes left by bones from a human skeleton. Their very indistinctness makes them poignant, and the suspicion that they might be forensic evidence gives them a sinister air.

A few of the other exhibits rely on humour: Abigail Lane's *chair* with a blue inkpad seat confronts an image on the wall bearing the imprint of someone's buttocks. Even here, though, the whimsy is countered by a hint that it might be part of an investigative procedure or even a ritual humiliation. The proximity of Borland's exhibit makes this possibility hard to discount, and her glass plates also help to shape how we see Marcus Taylor's perspex units.

Based on the forms of ordinary kitchen bridges, these

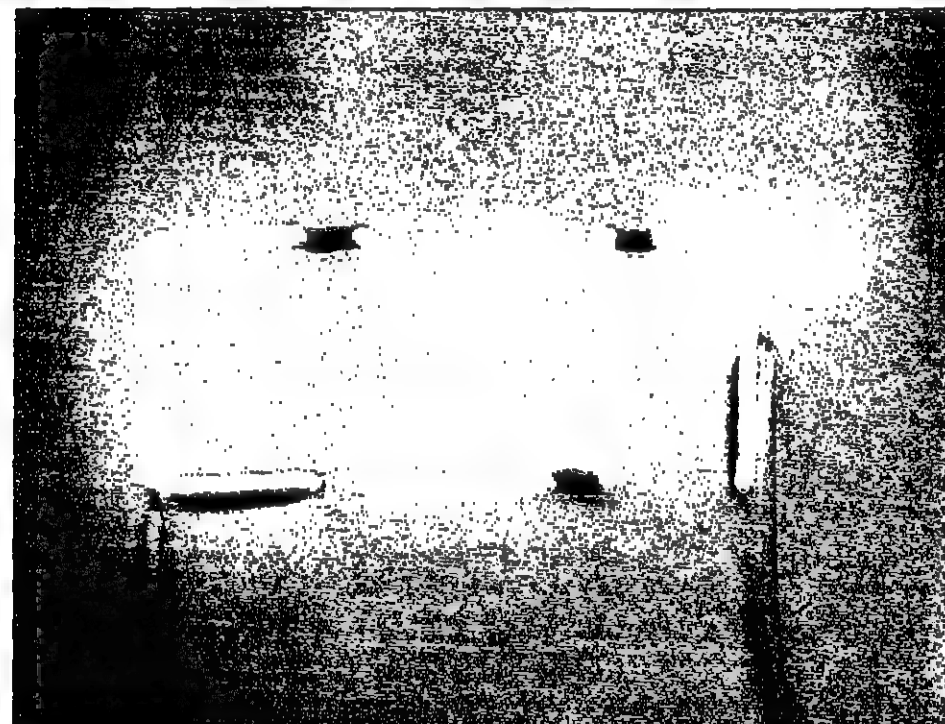
luminous white oblongs should be transparent. But Taylor has sanded their surfaces so that the interiors are cloudy. The difficulty of deciding what they might contain lends them a sense of menace. Could these glacial chambers harbour corpses?

The longer we spend in this stimulating show, the more we discover links between works displayed in different rooms as well. The frustration of examining Taylor's perspex containers is doubled when we arrive at Julian Opie's *D/889-E*. Made of painted wood, this plain white shed provides views of its interior through windows set in the sides. But Opie supplies no entrance. We are left walking round his enigmatic structure, thwarted by its refusal to fulfil an architectural role and let us step inside.

Upstairs, by contrast, Shirazeh Houshiary does allow us to explore the interior of her monumental *Isthmus*. Seen from the outside, this matt-black megalith of aluminium seems an exercise in minimalist severity. A slit in the side allows us to squeeze through, gaining access to a tall, narrow space which might easily have been claustrophobic. By lining it with polished copper, though, Houshiary transforms the lofty vault into a warm and reassuring enclosure.

But *Isthmus* remains exceptional in its willingness to let us penetrate the object. Most of the works at the Hayward issue no such invitation. They keep their distance and ask to be inspected, not occupied. Some, like Richard Deacon's shelf full of inventive and sensuous pieces from his superb *Art for Other People* series, look as if they would like to be picked up and fondled. Others, most notably Grenville Davey's austere (*Gold*) *Table*, take as their starting-point the notion of furnishing a room. But nothing could be mistaken for a functional object.

So although many contributors to the Hayward survey are indebted to Duchamp's pioneering use of the ready-made object, nobody follows his example and leaves it wholly unaltered. Mona Hatoum may have purchased a slotted spoon in a Jerusalem market, but she filled the holes with nuts and bolts that transform a domestic implement into a weapon. The desk-like table used by Rachel Whiteread to make her untitled resin block has been discarded, leaving only her luminous cast of the space beneath it.



Clockwise from top left: *Tix 3* by Cerith Wyn Evan (1996); *Matisse chez Duplat* by Ian Hamilton Finlay (1997); *Framework for colour co-ordination for building purposes* by Douglas Gordon and Simon Patterson (1992-97); *Tract (from Boost to Wham)* by Richard Wentworth (1993)

But most of her fellow-exhibitors retain their starting-point, such as the clapped-out twin-tub that provided Bill Woodrow with the metal to make the guitar attached so brazenly to its surface. Soon after finding this unwanted washing machine in a London street, he explained that "any material has a potential for manipulation, to be made into something other than its active form at the time you find it". And this "something other" gives the best work in this exhibition its consistent sense of challenge and resourcefulness, discovering an unexpected poetry in what Woodrow described as "everyday stuff".

Material Culture at the Hayward Gallery (0171-261 0127) until May 18

AROUND THE GALLERIES

THE rare opportunity to see Patrick Caulfield's recent large paintings shows that they carry a more all-over design. It is almost as if the earlier painted illusions of place and atmosphere had been replaced by the shorthand of the designer. It is a code where lights return to their principal role and throw off a perfect circular glow. Exit signs come forward out of the gloom. Instead of slotting elaborately rendered slices of illusionistic life together, the place turns into a vaguely grasped pattern of suggestion. Every now and then illusionistically painted details — a fully

flowering Busy Lizzie, a few slices of best steak or a pen slotted into a desk pen-holder — are given the full all-round Caulfield painterly treatment and deliberately arranged as if off centre on a table top. His paintings have always carried a powerful pull between real life and still-life, but the development here is surely to do with sight. The place has become less of a picture and is more about the sensation of being there, in the dark, content that the outside world is temporarily excluded.

Patrick Caulfield's New Paintings is at Waddington Galleries, 11 Cork Street, London W1X 2LT (0171-337 8611) until April 26

SACHA CRADDOCK

SALEEM ARIFF's show consists of two distinct groups of work: the large, solid wall pieces set up a perpetual play between two and three dimensions, while the framed watercolours and gouaches show a looser, more fluid weight. The swirling solidity of the deep crusted larger pieces, with the image cut out in negative relief, makes it impossible to tell where image begins and ends. *Metamorphosis* gains an almost metallic quality from opaque paint mixed with sand. The framed works are different: lyrical, joyous, Modernist and less like iconic objects.

Saleem Ariff's Gardens of grace is at A.R.K.S Gallery, 16 North Audley Street, London W1Y 1WE (0171-491 4600) until April 26

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FILM

Can the new initiatives on distribution improve choice for the British cinema-goer?



POP

Mary Coughlan goes her own way in a lyrical masterclass at the Watermans Arts Centre

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSIC

James MacMillan's new work draws inspiration from the life of one of Scotland's saints



RECORDING

Riccardo Muti is Building a Library's choice for the perfect night out with Aida

CINEMA: Carol Allen finds out how distributors bridge the gap between film-makers and goers

Who fills our local screens?

This Friday a modestly budgeted thriller with a Glasgow setting opens in 15 cinemas throughout Scotland, prior to a national British release next month. A comparatively minor event in film terms, perhaps, but important for a company called Metrodome, because *The Near Room* marks the arrival of a new kid on the block in Britain's distribution scene.

Distributors are the people who get films into cinemas; they are the link between the film-makers and the film-goers. They are dominated by Hollywood's representatives in Britain, companies like Columbia, UIP, Warner, Fox and Buena Vista. While enjoying some autonomy, their main business is to put the movies made and acquired by the big Hollywood studios into British cinemas.

Yet much of the interesting and original cinema on our screens gets there via distribution companies which are not attached to Hollywood's umbrella: art-house distributors such as Artificial Eye, who for 21 years have embraced foreign-language movies and the work of American independent film-makers, or — at the other end of that spectrum — tiny companies such as Gala, who scored a considerable success a few years back with *Wild Target*.

On a somewhat larger scale, there is the French-owned Guild with its mixed bag of art-house movies and high-profile critical successes (*Burnt by the Sun*, *Antonia's Line* and *Breaking the Waves*) and Polygram, whose "labels" include *British*, *Working Title* (*Jurassic Park*) and *Dead Man Walking*.

Entertainment, a family firm, is one of the British success stories. In the past few years it has enjoyed a growth in product and prestige with such films as *Seven*, *The Piano*, *Leaving Las Vegas* and *Evita*. Other players are the HTV-owned First Independent and Rank, whose operation, inherited by new owners Carlton, covers distribution and co-production deals with a variety of American and British companies.

It is at the modest end of the market that Metrodome has decided to set up its stall. As Rupert Preston, Metrodome's acquisition director, explains: "Between the big independently released films and the art-house movies, there's a large gap. There are hundreds of good films being made all round the world which aren't being seen in the UK simply because there aren't enough companies here to release them. The films we've got in this first year are all films from young film talent, which tend to be aimed at the 16 to 30-year-olds, perhaps with a bit of male bias."

Metrodome's first truly national release early next month, however, has rather a female bias. *Margaret's Museum*, based on short stories by Sheldon Currie, stars Helena Bonham Carter. That will be followed by two films from the

American independent sector: *Johns*, starring Lukas Haas and David Arquette, and *Palookaville*, a warm-hearted comedy about three young losers who want to be winners.

But there is more to Metrodome than acquisition. The company is the result of a marriage between Preston's company Starlight, which last year released the critically acclaimed *Swimming with Sharks*, and Metrodome Films, makers of *Leon the Pig Farmer*, so future Metrodome

Too many quality pictures are fighting for a screen

movies will be distributed through its own company.

"This is what the studios do, and we're aiming to be a micro studio," says Alan Martin, the managing director. "We're also receptive to other producers. If it's a good project we can take a producer right through from production to distribution."

This was also the thinking when Channel 4 set up its own distribution company, Film Four Distributors, two years ago, realising the publicity and other advantages of being able to control the entire operation. And it is the sort of arrangement which is intended to flourish under the four lottery-funded film awards to be announced in May.

Virtually everyone in film land has a bid in. Will Clarke, head of distribution for Fest-

ture Film, hopes that at least one of the smaller companies will benefit. "It could be a great opportunity to create growth for independent distributors," he says.

Britain is one of the most expensive places in the world to launch a film in terms of film print, marketing and advertising costs, which is why there are Hollywood films with major stars which never get a theatrical release here. Unless the box office takings are likely to cover the expense of distribution, such films are unlikely to find their way into a cinema near you.

Another difficulty, especially for the art-house companies, is the lack of suitable screens. Electric Pictures, for example, should have had a nice little earner with the highly praised French film *Ridicule*, but as Electric's Liz Wrenn says: "There are too many quality pictures fighting for screen space. I had to take *Ridicule* off good screens while there was still a big demand for it because other films were booked in."

Yet the future may be looking a little brighter for films like *Ridicule*. The increase in cinema audiences combined with the dramatic growth of multiplexes should create more opportunities for movies big and small.

Preston hopes that by concentrating on new talent, the "new kids on the block" will grow together. "Obviously as our company develops, the film-makers we're working with will see, and they will start making bigger films. So if we have developed a good relationship, we will probably continue it next time they make a film."



A scene from the modestly budgeted *The Near Room*, the first film to be distributed by newcomer Metrodome, which has ambitions to be a "micro studio"

Soaring away

POP

MARY COUGHLAN is one of those established Irish names you might have expected to see lined up alongside Mary Black, Sinéad O'Connor and Sharon Shannon as part of the From The Heart festival, a celebration of Irish culture at the Barbican. But while Donal Lunny was kicking off that event in the City, Coughlan was way out west at Watermans Arts Centre in Brentford, doing what she does best — her own thing.

After spending most of her recording life with Warner Brothers, Coughlan has now signed to Big Cat, an independent label with eclectic taste. Her new home has given her the space to release two albums, last year's *Live In Galway* and the new studio LP, *After The Fall*.

Watermans Arts Centre is a fairly stark place for a jazz blues singer to perform — and some of the audience sat and chatted around the sides, as though it was just Friday

night in the pub. Coughlan attempted to draw everyone in by opening up with the smoky, atmospheric *Meet Me Where They Play The Blues*. Backed by a four-piece band, on guitar, bass, sax and piano, Coughlan got the first big response of the evening when she played a rousing version of *Ride On*, made famous by Christy Moore.

An undoubted highlight of the set was the powerful, country-stained blues of *Magdalen Laundry*, which has now been given a darker, eastern feel. The crowd seemed to revel in this, as well as the more straightforward, rockier moments, but Coughlan is at her best when her voice is given the space to soar above the band as it did on the closing cover of Sam Cooke's *You Send Me*.

ANN SCANLON

Saints preserved

CONCERT

HAVING commemorated the 1,400th anniversary of the death of St Columba in his *Meditation on Iona* in Glasgow only two months ago, James MacMillan has now turned his creative attention to another Scottish saint. Sixteen hundred years after his arrival in Galloway, Ninian has become the patron saint of an epic clarinet concerto.

Ninian is far more than a mere test of endurance, however. As John Cushing demonstrated in its first performance with Paul Daniel and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra in the Usher Hall, Edinburgh, its primary motivation is spiritual rather than technical. During its three movements and almost 40-minute duration, it covers not only the whole pitch and dynamic range of the solo instrument but also an extraordinary variety of expression, from crude violence to mystic contemplation. The

concerto is, in fact, a frankly programmatic examination of three legends associated with St Ninian.

Even so, below the eventful surface — the orchestral bellying of an angry bull in the opening story of death and resurrection; the wide-ranging clarinet nocturne in a story of a crippled boy restored to health in the middle movement; the prolonged prayer and the hymn tunes in the largely slow-moving finale — there is a consistent motif undercurrent. That is one element which adds a dimension of sustained thought to moments of apparently mindless percussive aggression and naively descriptive colouring. The other is the role of the soloist, who carries an eloquent authority throughout.

GERALD LARNER

CLASSICAL CHOICE

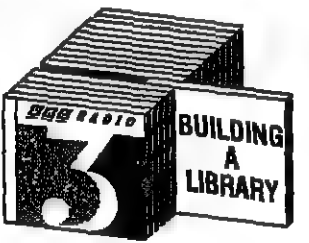
A guide to the best available classical music recordings, presented in conjunction with the Radio 3 programme

VERDI'S AIDA

Reviewed by Michael Oliver

VERDI'S *Aida* needs four superlative artists in its principal roles, but in three it requires almost two voices within the same singer. Aida herself is a queenly figure, a captive princess, in love with the soldier chosen to crush her own people, but both her love and her royal status are dangerous secrets. Radames is a soldier and a hero, but his love for Aida drives him to betray his country. The proud Egyptian princess Amneris and her jealousy and patriotism lead her to destroy him. Verdi demands powerful emotions of all three singers, but also asks them for the most refined shadings of tone to express their private torments.

The 16 recordings currently available contain some distinguished performances. These include Renata Tebaldi in



sumptuous voice in her first account of the title role (London 440 239-2), Plácido Domingo's fourth and most poetic portrayal of Radames (Sony Classical S3K 45973), and the triumphant teaming of Zinka Milanov and Jussi Björling (RCA GD 86652). But three recordings stand out. Maria Callas was at her most inspired when responding to colleagues as vividly imaginative as herself, and her long duet scene with Tito Gobbi as Aida's stern father Amonasso is one of the greatest confrontations in operatic recording.

Tullio Serafin is the sympathetic conductor (EMI CDS 5 56316-2), but the (mono) recording sounds its age.

Leontyne Price was even more of a natural Aida than Callas, and in her first recording of the role her voice was at its most resplendent. She was superbly partnered by the finest Radames on disc, Jon Vickers. Alas, the conducting of Sir Georg Solti is often fussy or over-assertive (Decca 417 416-2). Montserrat Caballé's Aida, however, is more exquisitely sung than even Callas's or Price's, conveying the suffering as well as the nobility of the character. Domingo is her stalwart Radames. Fiorenza Cossotto and Piero Cappuccilli the reliable Amneris and Amonasso. Riccardo Muti conducts the New Philharmonia Orchestra with subtlety and vigour, and the recording is clean and spacious (EMI CDS 7 47271-8, £44.99).

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Applicants must have held a right of audience in the Crown Court or the county courts for a period of ten years and should normally be aged between 35 and 50 on 1 April 1998.

The Lord Chancellor will appoint the candidates who appear to him to be best qualified regardless of ethnic origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, political affiliation, religion or (subject to the physical requirements of the office) disability.

An application form, together with a job description and note of the criteria for appointment, information about the expected number of vacancies and further information for applicants, is available by telephoning 0171-310 0631/0630 (voicemail outside office hours) or by writing to:

Assistant Recorder Appointments (JAD1)
Lord Chancellor's Department
Selborne House
54/60 Victoria Street
London SW1E 6QW

Each applicant may apply in respect of one Circuit only and completed application forms must be returned by noon on the following dates:

- applications for South Eastern Circuit: Friday 2 May 1997
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- applications for North Eastern, Wales and Chester and Northern Circuits: Friday 10 October 1997.

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NEW CONSTRUCTION CONFEDERATION Director of Legal Affairs

The principal construction trade associations have recently agreed to establish a unified organisation to represent Britain's building and civil engineering contractors.

The new Confederation will represent some 5,000 companies which are together responsible for over 70% of construction turnover and employ half a million people. It will be one of the largest UK trade associations. Its main tasks will be to provide high quality services to its members and to represent their interests to the Government and other decision-takers.

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Closing date for applications 30th April 1997.

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Ref: T38386

LAW

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● LAW REPORT 21

John Hayes on an issue at the heart of professional relationships — confidentiality

Can you keep a secret?

Keeping secrets is becoming harder for professional people. The churches have been arguing for clergymen to be exempted from laws which would authorise the bugging of conversations between professionals and those alleged to be involved in crime. Lawyers now have to tell the authorities about clients they suspect of money laundering or drug trafficking.

This trend is now deepening. From last week, company pension scheme actuaries and auditors have to tell the Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority (OPRA) about any breach of the law relating to the pension scheme which they believe is likely to be materially significant to the way OPRA does its job.

What does all this mean? The issue is one that strikes at the heart of professional relationships — confidentiality. The duty to keep confidential information is one that applies by common law to all employees, whether spies or milkmen. The same is true for professional advisers, except where the criminal attempts to involve the professional in committing a crime, or where the public interest demands that the authorities be alerted. Lawyers are exempt, however, from this latter duty.

Now, the price of silence can be the payment of massive damages when a firm collapses. The people most likely to be insured in that situation will be the professional advisers to the firm. The chance of them being sued is heightened where Parliament has decreed in the public interest that the professionals must report some types of irregularities to the regulator.

In banks and in insurance companies, this duty has mainly been triggered by major problems indicating serious questions about the financial viability of the institution, or reflecting serious doubts about the fitness of the directors or senior managers. The Financial Services Act, and now the Pensions Act, impose a much lower threshold, so that relatively small issues may have to be reported.

All this could degenerate into an atmosphere of cynicism and recrimination. A much more positive approach

is needed. Clients, whether grand financial institutions or lay bodies, should create a culture where checks on compliance and voluntary confessions of failure become a way of life.

When a member of the senior management course at Henley Management College in 1979, I asked Adrian Cadbury what boards of directors did. He explained that one of their most important roles was to examine projects, in an unvindictive way, to see whether they lived up to their expectations and, if not, why that had not happened. Trustees and employers should learn to adopt a similar role. They should also have pride in spotting and correcting errors well before their professional advisers come on the scene. If they work with those advisers to concentrate on making systems work to reduce, if never eliminate, the possibility of error, then — as long as their regulator is pragmatic and sensible — they should have nothing to fear. I know of at least one regulator who fits this bill.

John Hayes, a solicitor by training, was appointed chairman of OPRA in April 1996 and took up the appointment on a full-time basis in June 1996.



The price of silence: few dared to blow the whistle on Robert Maxwell's activities

Blow the whistle, save a life

THE launch of the pensions regime last week marks a sea change in public attitudes toward whistleblowing. Four years ago, Public Concern at Work had to call on the pro bono services of two QCs to convince the Charity Commission that whistleblowing might ever be for the public benefit.

When Public Concern at Work was launched we avoided the term, because whistleblowers were presented as misguided souls who were crucified for their pains. This portrayal did nothing to reassure our prospective clients — employees with evidence of serious malpractice but uncertain of whether or where to sound the alarm.

The case we made for whistleblowing lay in the official reports into disasters and

scandals, such as the *Herald of Free Enterprise*, the Clapham train crash, BCCI, Piper Alpha and Barlow Clowes. These all found that employees had been aware of the danger of malpractice, but were either too scared to sound the alarm or had done so ineffectively.

Significantly, 90 per cent of clients who follow our advice report a successful outcome. This has much to do with our policy that, if raised responsibly within the organisation, concerns about malpractice will be addressed properly by those in charge. In exceptional circumstances, however, we have had no option but to help the client to alert the authorities. Two recent examples led to a four-year prison sentence for the owner of an old people's home who had sexu-

ally assaulted his residents, and the conviction of two managers for a £1 million fraud.

While this approach recognises the importance of confidentiality in the workplace, we apply established legal principles to ensure it is not abused by those out to flout the law. This approach builds on the legal principle of notice: that people can be expected to account for their actions once told of a problem.

The most salutary illustration of this principle was the first conviction in the UK for corporate manslaughter, following the Lyme Bay canoeing disaster. Months before the disaster an instructor wrote to the managing director warning that lives were in danger. Unable to explain his failure to respond, the managing

director was sentenced to two years in prison.

GUY DEHN

The author is director, Public Concern at Work (0171-404 6609), a charity that gives free legal advice to employees concerned about workplace malpractice.

A fair election: how the law protects us

In 1891, Mr Justice Hawkins pronounced that "one cannot look too hardly and weigh in golden scales the acts of men not in their political excitement". But the law does try to regulate the conduct of elections. As the campaign warms up, candidates and voters may welcome a guide to some important principles of election law.

Candidates accused of spending insufficient time with their families, or too much time with their bank accounts, should note that the law seeks to prevent unreasonable intrusion into their private lives. The Representation of the People Act 1983 makes it unlawful to publish any "false statement of fact in relation to the candidate's personal character or conduct" for the purpose of influencing electoral prospects, unless there are reasonable grounds for believing the statement to be true.

During previous election campaigns, courts have had to consider when allegations of impropriety have been "personal" in nature. In 1995, the Court of Appeal granted an injunction to the Liberal candidate in the parliamentary election in Chesterfield to stop his Conservative opponent from distributing a leaflet accusing him of being a cruel hypocrite who starved his employees. Courts have held that to say that a candidate "would not pay his hotel bills or debts" concerns "personal character or conduct", but it is not "personal" to call a candidate a "communist" or a "radical traitor".

The law does its best to ensure that people vote according to their own assessment of the merits of the rival candidates. It is a corrupt practice (for which an offender may be prosecuted and, if convicted, imprisoned) to threaten or induce "any temporal or spiritual injury" on people to induce them to vote for or against a candidate, or to punish them for doing so.

As to temporal injuries, courts have held that it is unlawful to dismiss (or to threaten to dismiss) employees or tenants because of their voting intentions. In 1857, the headmaster of a grammar school, the Rev E.L. Barnwell, was accused of a corrupt practice by threatening the local baker that unless he voted for Mr Barnwell's preferred candidate in the election in Denbigh, Mr Barnwell would take away his custom and that of the church charity (which gave 60 loaves a week to the poor). The baker stood firm ("He answered that he had several persons to please besides Mr Barnwell").

The court accepted Mr Barnwell's denial that he had made such threats. But the judge made clear that the allegations, if substantiated, would have established a breach of the law. There are limits to this principle: in 1910,

a court held that it is not a corrupt practice to stop using a person to look after your puppies on account of that person's political views.

As to spiritual injuries, ministers of religion may lawfully address their flock on the merits, and defects, of the rival parties and candidates. But they must not suggest that divine rewards or punishments will follow according to the vote that is cast. In the *Galway Town Election Petition Case* in 1869, Mr Justice Keogh referred to the charge ("and a more fearful charge I know not of") that a bishop had "refused the most solemn rites of the Church to persons on account of their voting or not voting in a particular way". The judge said that, if proved, such an allegation would make the election null and void, as would any "play upon the superstitious feelings of the people". Happily, no wrongdoing was there established.

The courts have had to consider how candidates describe themselves. In 1899, Mr Justice Wright declared that if the nomination paper is "a mere abuse of the right of nomination or an obvious untruth", for example "if it purported to nominate a deceased sovereign", then it ought to be rejected.

In the 1983 general election, a Mr Hanoman changed his name by deed poll to Margaret Thatcher, and sought nomination in the then Prime Minister's constituency under that name, for the "Conservative Party", giving his address as Downing Street Mansions. The returning officer wisely rejected the nomination paper.

In *R v Bennett ex parte Mr Margaret Thatcher*, the Court of Appeal refused an application by Mr Thatcher for judicial review because the application was an abuse of process as he had the "unlawful object of confusing the people and making the electoral process a farce". But the court declined to decide whether the returning officer had power to act as he did.

In 1994, the Divisional Court held that the returning officer for a European parliamentary election had lawfully concluded that the nomination paper of a candidate describing himself as a "Liberal Democrat" was valid, even if it was calculated to mislead voters who intended to vote for the Liberal Democrat candidate.

Five years ago, Mr Justice Macpherson rejected a claim by a disgruntled voter who sought an injunction to stop the general election because he could vote only for "vested interest political parties seeking their own ends". Election law has its limits.

The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford



COUNSEL
DAVID
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Ringing changes

TONY GIRLING, the President of the Law Society, has delivered on at least one of the promises he made on his election last summer. As soon as Mr Girling was safely installed, he promised to take urgent steps to improve the society's inquiry-handling process after complaining that "many find that they cannot get through to the switchboard".

Now, eight months into his term, it appears he has at least

got to grips with the switchboard problem. An *Inns and Outs* survey last week found a series of calls to the main Chancery Lane switchboard answered by helpful staff in four seconds.

Gay law

IS LITIGATION the best way to advance gay rights? The topic will head the agenda at a one-day conference on lesbian and gay law reform to be held

at the University of London Union, Malet Street, on April 19.

Martin Bowley, QC, the former Bar Council treasurer, is one of the organisers of the event, which is being held by the Bar Lesbian and Gay Group and Lesbian and Gay Lawyers' Association.

"The conference will be aiming to identify an agenda for lesbian and gay law reform in the new Parliament," he says. Workshops will cover

fostering and adoption, immigration, employment, criminal law and inheritance law. Details: 0171-831 1674.

THE International Bar Association's ambitious *One Dollar Per Lawyer for Human Rights* appeal has had a quick response at the highest levels. As soon as he heard about the appeal during a recent hearing, Mr Justice Dowd, AO, of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, Australia, whipped out a dollar for himself and one for his associates.

Gun law

LIFE IS becoming precarious for judges and lawyers in Albania. Perparim Kalo, an Albanian lawyer based in Tirana, says that the escape of 1,000 prisoners, combined with the proliferation of guns on the streets, has "made life insecure, particularly for those lawyers and judges who were involved in the criminals' original trials". As a result of the potential threat to the lawyers' lives, the courts have been closed. Foreign work has also dried up. Mr Kalo says: "Many clients have simply cancelled their projects here and have left the country."

SCRIVENOR

Saddle-sore on the banks of the Nile

A SPONSORED cycle ride along the banks of the Nile is how Kenneth Rokison, QC, chose to celebrate his 60th birthday recently. The six-day trip was in aid of Mencap, who also organised it.

The 507-kilometre ride, which started on March 22 in 30C heat and ended 4½ days later, involved more than 150 cyclists. "It was very hard on the bum," Mr Rokison said,

"but we were a group of very determined people."

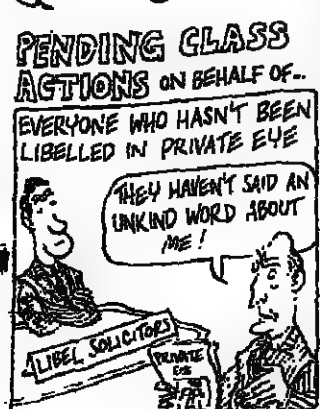
Mr Rokison, head of chambers at 20 Essex Street, was joined by Judge (Tony) Hallgarten, former head of the same chambers, who sits in the Inner London Commercial Court, and Carol Thatcher, daughter of Baroness Thatcher.

Mr Rokison raised £12,500 in sponsorship pledges from the Bar and City solicitors.



Kenneth Rokison: training

QUEEN'S COUNSEL



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The Chancery Bar Association SPRING LECTURE THE WOOLF REPORT: FORWARDS OR BACKWORDS FOR THE NEW LORD CHANCELLOR?

given by

Michael Zander QC

Professor of Law, London School of Economics

The Spring Lecture will be held at
6.00pm Monday 28 April 1997 in the Great Hall, Lincoln's Inn, WC2.

This is a public lecture and admission is free. The Chancery Bar Association welcomes everyone who is interested in the topic. Any inquiries about the lecture should be made to 11 Old Square on 0171-430-0341.

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Ipswich

paced environment ideal for developing your commercial skills. A capable solicitor, you should have around two to three years' post-graduate experience and sound training gained in a City or large regional practice. You will need a strong background in contract and general commercial law preferably with experience of the energy sector. It would be an advantage to have had some exposure to EU competition, environmental or property law and excellent communication, negotiation and drafting skills are essential.

Based at Eastern's headquarters in Suffolk, you'll receive a competitive salary and full benefits package.

To apply, please send your CV, quoting reference GU/87 and current salary, to Karen Barnes, Personnel Advisor, Eastern Generation Ltd, Wharfedale Park, PO Box 40, Wharfedale, Ipswich, Suffolk IP9 2AQ. The closing date for receipt of applications is 22 April 1997.

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US Securities house seeks an experienced employment lawyer at the 2-4 year level to join their London based legal team. As the sole employment lawyer you will be required to advise on a broad range of contentious and non-contentious issues and IT advocacy experience would be of particular benefit. A tough robust personality is prerequisite. Ref: T35960

OIL

Scottish To £Excellent UK energy company seeks a 1-4 year qualified general company/commercial lawyer for its international division to be based in Scotland specialising in downstream work. Energy experience to date is not pre-requisite but would help. Most important is a genuine enthusiasm for the oil sector. Excellent opportunity to join a high profile company. Ref: T38068

JUNIOR MEDIA

To £Competitive Major television company seeks business affairs manager with 2-4 years' ppe in the TV sector. Crucial is personality, must be mature with real gravitas, able to establish credibility quickly. Work will be demanding and high profile, affording excellent TV experience. Ref: T36492

CONSTRUCTION

To £70,000 + Benefits Head of Legal sought by this major construction company to develop legal team for the international construction division. Based in Greater London, you will bring excellent managerial skills as well as international non-contentious construction experience. Excellent opportunity for an experienced construction lawyer. Ref: T36955

COMMERCIAL/IP

To £Good + Car/Bonus UK pharmaceutical company based in Home Counties seeks an additional lawyer to join existing team with at least 5 years' ppe in the general commercial and IP spheres. Experience from the pharmaceutical sector and a science background would be ideal but not pre-requisite. Work will include broad ranging commercial contracts, patents and product liability. Ref: T39149

JUNIOR COMMERCIAL

To £35,000 Plus Bens. International retail company seeks a junior commercial lawyer with between 0-3 years' ppe to become the sole counsel in the UK. Work will range from EC issues, marketing, consumer law to employment issues and in addition to broad ranging commercial experience the right individual will have a confident outgoing personality for this young and dynamic subsidiary. Ref: T39484

For further information in complete confidence, please contact June Mead, Rebecca Errington or Greg Abrahamson (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-485 6962 (0181-442 0841 evenings/weekends) or write to them at QD In-House Legal, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4EJ. Confidential fax 0171-831 6394.



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Please write with your CV to Sarah Moakes, Human Resources Administrator, Whitbread Plc, Park Street West, Luton, Beds LU1 3BG. Closing date for applications is 25th April 1997.

We welcome applicants from all sections of the community.

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AN NOP SURVEY

Which legal directory is the most popular among users of legal services? We - naturally - maintain that ours, Chambers, is the most popular. The Legal 500 say the same about theirs. For several years, they have been conducting a Gallup survey of chief in-house lawyers which they commissioned in April 1994. It put their directory ahead of ours. We say that our directory has improved so much in the past three years that the Gallup survey is no longer valid. Our own research tells us that Chambers is now preferred, but until now we have had no independent evidence to support us.

In February, therefore, we asked NOP to carry out the same sort of survey of chief in-house lawyers as Gallup conducted in 1994. The results are now available. By a substantial margin, these lawyers say they prefer Chambers. When asked which directory they were most aware of, 50% unprompted, first mentioned Chambers compared with 21% mentioning Legal 500. This question gave the best response for our directory, but all the questions produced favourable responses.

Asked, for instance, which directory they would use to identify a leading law firm in a particular specialisation, 42% of chief in-house lawyers first mentioned Chambers compared with only 30% mentioning Legal 500. The same result was repeated for identifying individual solicitors or barristers.

Why the turnaround? One explanation may be found in the responses which show that, of the two directories, Chambers was considered the best researched.

Michael Chambers

INDUSTRY

Trademarks: London

Int'l co with trademarks in over 60 countries seeks experienced trademark professional to manage the portfolio. General in-house work will include negotiating int'l contracts and employment matters.

Corporate/Comm: West Midlands
Opp for a lawyer with min 5 yrs' ppe to join engineering PLC. Position involves M&A, company secretarial, insurance, IP and contractual matters.

Corporate/Commercial: North East
Sole/Barr with min 3 years' ppe req'd to join expanding int'l telecomms co. Role will involve general commercial work including EU competition. Possibilities for overseas travel.

Sonya Rayner, Morwenna Lewis

Oil Lawyer: Aberdeen

Sole or Barr with approx 7 years' exp to join UK subsid of major independent oil co. Work includes oil's, farm-ins, acquisitions and disposals. Good business sense and experience of UKCS essential.

Trade Mark Agent: London

Exc opp for qual trademark agent with approx 5 yrs' exp, with a legal and patents background, to join well-known practice with portfolio of household names. Excellent prospects and package. Some travel.

Commercial Property: North East
Opp for Solr with approx 2-3 yrs' ppe in comm prop to join legal dept of int'l services co. Ideal as a first move into industry. Should have existing links with the North.

PRIVATE PRACTICE

SOUTH: Helen Mills, Aileen Shepherd, Noel Murray
LONDON: David Woolfson, Simon Anderson NORTH: Sukh Bhatta, Paul Thomas

Legal Researcher

Chambers' legal directory needs qualified lawyer to join team researching the legal profession. Ring Helena Sengupta for details (0171) 606 1800.

Employment Litigation: EC4

Niche media firm seeks 3-6 year qualified employment specialist to handle predominantly contentious work for media and commercial clients.

Professional Negligence: EC4

Ambitious and commercially minded 2-4 yr qualified defendant professional negligence solicitor sought by small specialist insurance firm in the City.

Banking Litigation Partner: City

Profitable med-sized firm with strong insolvency practice seeks experienced partner to assist in the development of a strong banking litigation practice.

Commercial Property: West End

Leading niche practice offers 2-4 yr qualified solicitor high quality work, substantial client contact and opportunity to develop own following.

Company/Commercial: Gulf States

Major City firm whose international practice is particularly strong in Middle East seeks 0-2 year qual solicitor for broad based. Attractive location.

Banking/Capital Markets: City

One of the most prestigious Wall St firms offers 0-3 year qualified solicitors work high degree of responsibility and New York salaries.

Investment Funds: City

Medium/large firm, renowned for its investment funds practice, seeks 1-2 year qualified solicitor for broad mix of transactional and regulatory work.

Employment: Herts

1-3 year qualified solicitor sought by medium sized firm. To include contentious and non-contentious work, mainly employer but some employee.

Partner Designate: Leeds

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south coast

An exceptional opportunity has arisen at our client, the run-off company of a major US insurer. As the company enters the most challenging phase of its operations, they now seek to appoint a commercially aware lawyer to their management team.

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- Directing all arbitration and litigation
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- Statutory compliance
- The management of all audits and inspections performed by or on behalf of the company's reinsurers

As a key member of the management team, the appointee must have a proactive approach and apply sound commercial judgement in resolving complex legal problems.

Candidates will need at least 5 years ppe with specific experience in the reinsurance or claims environment and in depth knowledge of UK contract law. This may have been gained either in practice or in an in-house role. Company secretarial experience will be an advantage, but not a prerequisite. A competitive remuneration package will be offered to the successful applicant.

please contact John Roberts (solicitor) at
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You must be a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Justice entitled to practice in England or a Barrister with practical experience to period under Articles.

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The deadline for completed application forms is 22nd April 1997.



Valuing people, promoting opportunity.

No more dirty business

John Lang reports
on international
attempts to
tackle corruption

Bribery and kickbacks are once more in the news. As Michael Allcock, the Inland Revenue investigator convicted of accepting bribes gets five years, allegations of corruption at Volkswagen's Czech subsidiary, Skoda, surface.

At an international level, governments — with one notable exception — have, in recent years, been ambivalent when addressing the issue of corrupt payments in international trade. Now, though, attitudes seem to be changing.

At a ministerial meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in May 1996, ministers agreed to criminalise bribery of foreign public officials in an effective and co-ordinated manner in order to combat bribery in international business transactions. This agreement is in marked contrast to events in 1994, when an OECD working party on illicit payments was unable to agree a joint strategy for the elimination of corruption in international trade. Transparency International, formed in 1993 to campaign for a code of business ethics to rid the world of bribery, was of the view that Britain and Japan were the least supportive of the 1994 OECD initiative.

At present, the United States is the only country to have outlawed the payment of bribes to foreign officials. The US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act 1977 prohibits the making of payments to foreign government officials so as to obtain or retain business. The American position represents one end of a broad spectrum; at the other, bribes are a tax-deductible expense. Not surprisingly, the Americans are furious. In July last year, Mickey Kantor, the US Commerce Secretary, gave several examples of unnamed European companies allegedly beating American companies in bids by paying bribes. The US will no doubt tirelessly campaign for action in this area and we are likely to see the World Trade Organisation develop as the forum for debate. Indeed, the ministerial conference of the WTO in Singapore in December last year adopted a declaration to establish a working group to conduct a study on transparency in government procurement practices.

Turning to the position at home, the Prevention of Corruption Act 1906 is one of a few UK statutes dealing with



Michael Allcock: the convicted Inland Revenue investigator

bribery. It provides that if any agent accepts any gift or consideration as an inducement for doing or forbearing to do an act in relation to his principal's affairs, he is guilty of an offence. The donor, too, will be guilty of an offence. In civil law (as opposed to statute law), a bribe exists if a gift is made by a donor to an agent (or employee) or a third party (without their knowledge or consent), with a view to inducing the agent to act in favour of the donor in relation to transactions between the donor and the third party.

The ease with which bribery can occur at the most basic level of trade and the options available to an

innocent party on discovery of the bribery, can best be illustrated by way of example.

Mr Greenback is a sales manager at Blindeye Limited, a widget manufacturer. He slips Mr Gullible, the purchasing manager at Straight & Narrow Limited, £1,000 to ensure the placing of an order. When Straight & Narrow finds out, it is horrified. What can it do?

First, it could sack Mr Gullible. Secondly, it could rescind the contract. But if Straight & Narrow's customers are desperate for widgets, this may not be a good idea. Straight & Narrow could pursue Mr Gullible for recovery

of the amount of the bribe and, if it elects to affirm the transaction, Blindeye as well (although it could not make a double recovery).

If Straight & Narrow has suffered a loss by entering into the transaction (by paying over the odds for the widgets), it can also claim damages in fraud, from both Mr Gullible and Blindeye. However, it must elect one or other of its claims before judgment (the higher of the two being the most likely candidate).

Whether Blindeye would be saddled with the actions of its employees is a difficult area but, put simply, if a court thinks it just for the employer to bear the loss (perhaps because they turned a blind eye to Mr Greenback's sales techniques), they will be held liable.

Life could get tougher for Blindeye (and Mr Greenback) if Mr Gullible was employed by a public body which felt compelled to report the matter to the authorities. The Prevention of Corruption Act 1916 provides that in proceedings brought under the 1906 Act (and the Public Bodies Corrupt Practices Act 1889), if it is proved that money was paid to a person employed by a government department or public body by a person trying to win business, the payment shall be deemed to have been paid corruptly, unless the contrary is proved.

Companies who, because of the actions of their wayward employees, find themselves embroiled in a bribery scandal involving a public body, (as opposed to a commercial entity), are likely to experience greater difficulty in extracting themselves from the mess. Bearing in mind the actions of most public bodies are subject to public scrutiny, negotiating a way out will require considerable skill and agility.

Returning to the international arena, as the major trading countries begin discussing and (perhaps) implementing legislation to outlaw the payment of bribes to foreign officials, it may become commonplace for an unsuccessful (and aggrieved) bidder on a big international contract to press their government department to pressure the successful bidder's government to investigate the bid. At this point political expediency becomes a factor, witness the Pegasus Dam affair, and it is therefore difficult to predict the willingness of governments to act in these circumstances. However, governments are now more willing to address bribery at an international level and the business community would be well advised to keep a close eye on developments, not to mention their own internal codes of conduct.

● The author is a partner in Llewellyn Zisman, a City law firm.

How British lawyers are helping the Balkan state

Albania has not been ignored

International agencies have not given up on Albania. For example, there is still a plan at the Overseas Development Agency and the Know-How Fund to bring a group of officials to the UK to observe our elections. At the European Training Foundation (an EC agency based in Turin), Albanians could yet take part in a conference, scheduled for later this year, on the role of paralegals in economic reform.

According to Marco Nicolini, of Claes & Tonucci, the Italo-Belgian joint law firm which has an office in Tirana, the situation has improved considerably in the past week and its Albanian staff in the capital are almost back to normal working.

Claes & Tonucci has been active in Albania for some time on behalf of the European Union and a number of inward investors. Its office is staffed by a mixture of Italian and American lawyers together with locally recruited assistants. Although the disturbances had put fresh business on hold, Marco Nicolini felt that the new government could make a big difference.

"There will be renewed pressure on the Government to attract inward investment once stability fully returns," he says. "So while many developments are temporarily at a standstill (and no one doubts the dangers), there is still a lot of interest in getting on with the legal reforms which must lie at the foundation of economic progress."

Part of this stems from the fact that Albania's neighbour Montenegro is proving to be pretty successful at attracting economic investment. Mark Harrison, a partner at Eversheds, has extensive experience of the



Balkan region and gives Montenegro a "gold star" as an object for new investment. He is active on behalf of a number of clients who are putting money mainly into tourism. Along with Macedonia, Mr Harrison sees Montenegro as being one of the most attractive places in Central Europe for investment. "The geographical links with Italy and Greece give these countries excellent prospects and they have the necessary legal infrastructure," he says.

The difficulty with Albania was that a proper legal infrastructure was never satisfactorily established after the fall of the Marxist regime. There had been no legal training for 30 years and it was slow to get started on reform despite the efforts, for example, of the newly established British Albania Law Association (BALA). As one British lawyer active in the area says: "Government ministers would introduce laws and then tell no one about them — including other ministers."

One of the biggest holes in the hastily thrown together legal code was any reference to pyramid selling. Martin Day, formerly with Linklaters & Paine and now with MW Cornish & Co, is trying to do something about that.

As an expert on the Balkans and vice-chairman of the British Yugoslav Law Association, Mr Day has been in contact with the Central Bank in Tirana to discuss appropriate legislation. He has also opened up discussions with the British Know-How Fund about possible funding for such a project.

The essence of Mr Day's proposals is that an adapted version of something like the UK's Fair Trading Act could put an end to the kind of scheme that has destroyed social order in Albania.

Another firm which has been advising on the relevance of UK law to Albania is Edwards Geldart, based in Cardiff. Through its links with the Belgian end of the Claes & Tonucci venture, Mr Geldart has been providing insights on how UK legislation might feed into the new Albanian system.

The most recent direct contact the firm has had was in mid-February when a party of Albanian lawyers was in London for meetings with civil servants just as the first riots broke out. They also paid a visit to the House of Parliament as the sleaze stories began.

They probably felt reassured that at least in one respect Albania could match Western standards.

EDWARD FENNELL

PROPERTY LAWYER

Warner Bros. International Theatres, one of the best known names in the entertainment industry, is currently operating in 10 countries worldwide, and is looking to develop a number of new markets in Europe and internationally. In Europe, it has close to 250 cinema screens and is committed to doubling in size over the next 30 months.

It now needs a property lawyer to co-ordinate all property aspects of this rapid expansion in Europe. Based at the European headquarters in London's West End, your role will be both legal and commercial.

You will be involved in all aspects of commercial decision making including strategic planning. On the legal side, the work will include preparing and negotiating agreements to lease and leases and all ancillary documentation, including construction documentation. There will also be involvement with the property management of the cinema complexes. It will be predominantly international, involving frequent European travel. Foreign languages are therefore a definite asset. You will report to the Director of European Business and Legal Affairs.



Candidates, who should be solicitors with at least four years' commercial property experience from either private practice or industry, must be commercially minded, with initiative and keen to take an active part in a young, dynamic 'hands-on' business environment. This is an outstanding opportunity with great scope for advancement.

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For further details please contact Sonya Rayner, who is handling this assignment on an exclusive basis.

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If you are excited by a position which will offer you the security of a highly successful international business environment whilst at the same time present you with a rare opportunity within a pioneering and highly dynamic team in Europe, you should seriously consider this role.

Fox Kids Europe will offer you an impressive package including a substantial basic salary and other benefits.



For further information in complete confidence, please contact June Massey or Rebecca Errington (both qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 4062 (0171-357 0912 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglall In-House Legal, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4BL. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.



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Please send your CV in the first instance to:

Nicola Deva, Head of Personnel & Administration, Addleshaw Booth & Co, Dennis House, Marsden Street, Manchester M2 1JD or telephone in confidence on 0161 832 5994

OPPORTUNITIES

IN CONSTRUCTION

LEEDS

MANCHESTER



Adobe Systems is the world's third largest personal computer software company. Founded in 1982 Adobe helped launch the desktop publishing revolution. Today, the company offers a market leading line of software for creating visually rich communication materials across all print and electronic media. Adobe's European headquarters are based in Edinburgh. Employing around eighty people in areas such as marketing, legal services, finance, and operations it provides the highest levels of service and support to subsidiary offices throughout Europe.

ASSOCIATE EUROPEAN LEGAL COUNSEL

The Associate European Legal Counsel will provide high-calibre advice and support to selected Adobe departments and business units on a wide range of European legal issues. This will include drafting and negotiating all types of software distribution and licensing agreements, trade mark licensing and reviewing press releases, marketing materials and sales promotions. In addition you will provide back-up on general corporate work.

Reporting to the European Legal Counsel and liaising with a wide variety of internal bodies and external advisers, the successful applicant will be a UK or EU qualified Solicitor, Barrister or Advocate with a minimum of three years post-qualification experience in industry or private practice. A customer-focused individual with excellent communication skills, you will operate independently without close supervision or dedicated PA support. Working to tight deadlines within a fast-moving environment, a flexible approach and the ability to prioritise and manage multiple projects effectively is essential.

Your first-class legal skills will include:

- specialisation in commercial contracts and intellectual property law
- experience working with the software industry or other copyright businesses
- knowledge of EU competition law

Based in Edinburgh, this is a key position requiring a talented professional who will thrive in a dynamic, quality-driven environment. Given the European focus of the role some travel will be necessary and fluency in a second European language is desirable.

As you would expect from a market leader in this field, Adobe offer an excellent salary and benefits package. Relocation assistance is available where applicable.

For further details please call Carolyn Black or Alex Hunter on 0131 557 2223 or to apply send your CV to:

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CITY ASSISTANTS

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Unparalleled success in attracting new blue chip international clients leads this growing national practice to seek a junior employment law specialist (c. 2 years' pge) to strengthen its team and to attract new employment law work from its burgeoning client base. Ideally candidates will have non-contentious and contentious experience. Long term prospects are excellent.

EC / COMPETITION

Top flight lawyer (2-4 years' pge) sought by small distinguished EC/Competition team of pre-eminent City law firm. Closely involved in the unit's growth the role offers a unique opportunity to enhance both experience and reputation. Knowledge of telecoms, regulatory or trade law useful. Excellent prospects.

CONSTRUCTION

Acting for public bodies, public and private companies our client is a medium sized City firm with an established construction practice. Extremely busy on behalf of major institutional/development and banking clients the department seeks an ambitious specialist with 1-2 years' pge to explore the exceptional cross-fertilisation opportunities. A key appointment with superb prospects in a firm noted for producing home grown partners.

To discuss any of the above appointments in detail, please contact Sarah King, Penny Turnbridge or Simon Eagan on 0171 404 6666 (evenings/weekends: 0171 404 2039) or write to us, in complete confidence, at 44/45 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1JB (fax: 0171 404 8817).

EAGAN JANION



Investigations

The Securities and Investments Board (SIB) seeks to appoint a high calibre individual to the Enquiries and Investigations department of the Enforcement & Legal Services Division. The Division uses statutory powers, often in conjunction with other regulators, both here and abroad, to detect and deal with cases of abuse, damage and risk to investors.

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Candidates should ideally have a legal/regulatory background with forensic skills, an enquiring mind and the ability to work unsupervised under pressure. The work is always of a highly confidential nature and applicants should display maturity, tact and political sense. Experience of investigative work is essential, together with a general knowledge of the City and related issues.

Interested applicants should in the first instance contact Sue Lintern at Michael Page City, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH for an information pack, quoting reference number 343096. Telephone 0171 269 2365.

Closing date Wednesday 23rd April 1997.



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Package to £60,000

Tapping Potential

North West

Group Company Secretary

Excellent opportunity for an exceptional commercial lawyer or legally trained Company Secretary to join the senior management team of this market-leading provider of Training and Recruitment Services. Following a recent high profile £100 million cash injection, the company is poised for further growth, both organically and through acquisition. Over the last 7 years, CRT's market capitalisation has risen from £1.0 million to over £300 million. The role will have real scope to make a contribution to this publicly quoted company's commercial development.

THE ROLE

- Reporting to the Group Finance Director and working closely with the Chief Executive, the Board and senior divisional management.
- Responsible for the full range of company secretarial duties, especially legal services, including commercial, corporate, property and litigation. Oversee the relationships with external support providers.
- Devise systems to ensure adherence to all corporate governance, regulatory and best practice codes. Demonstrate that the role provides real added value to the organisation.

THE QUALIFICATIONS

- Qualified Solicitor with a broad legal training gained ideally in a service industry or commercially oriented private practice. IT literacy a prerequisite.
- Knowledge of yellow Book and regulatory practices essential. Preferably exposure to contractual negotiations with major customers/suppliers and acquisition targets.
- Highly influential team player, keen to be part of a rapidly expanding, enterprising and dynamic business. Excellent negotiator, systematic and detail conscious.

Leeds 0113 230 7774
London 0171 398 3333
Manchester 0161 499 1700

Selector Europe
Spencer Stuart

Please reply with full details on
Selector Europe, Ref: 7105/97/1,
Arlington Court, Greenacres Business Park,
Styal Road, Manchester M22 5LD

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

The property department is one of the core services provided by this very well-respected and successful practice. 2 junior property lawyers are sought, due to expansion, who are well-trained with good academic. This firm's philosophy is that "people make the difference" and it prides itself on providing a friendly, supportive and quality-driven environment. Ref: 3690. Contact: Jane Glasberg.

BANKING

This medium size practice has an outstanding reputation for the quality and diversity of its banking work and is particularly well known for its expertise in acquisition finance. The firm prides itself on its innovative thinking as financial engineering techniques become more complex. Excellent prospects for client orientated, top 20 lawyers aiming to become a bigger fish. Ref: 1514. Contact: Peter Gaskin.

ARBITRATION/LITIGATION

City office of US firm specialising in dispute resolution, both orthodox and alternative, offers attractive prospects for partners with following: You will be able to bring expertise and charisma to a young, dynamic partnership. Senior assistants seeking remuneration commensurate with their hard work and commitment should apply. Ref: 3644. Contact: Chris Wines.

CORPORATE/COMMERCIAL

This is a rare opportunity to join the Dubai office of a major international law firm which is particularly strong in corporate, commercial and finance matters. You will have 0-3 years' PQE from a top City firm and be keen to handle a diverse range of top quality company/commercial work. You must also have a sense of adventure. Ref: 0101. Contact: Pandora Close.



Hughes-Castell

International Legal Recruitment Consultants
London Office: 87 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1RD. Tel: 0171 242 0303 Fax: 0171 242 7111
Hong Kong Office: 602 East View Building, 41 Lockhart Road, Hong Kong. Tel: 2520 1168 Fax: 2865 0925

EMPLOYMENT

Are you looking to move from the traditional City firm to a young, dynamic City firm with a difference, where your efforts will be recognised and highly rewarded? Our client has a high profile reputation for employment law and seeks young lawyers to handle work of the highest quality for household names. Ref: 2323. Contact: Pandora Close.

INSURANCE - IN HOUSE

Apply your legal skills in a front-line role which will place you right at the heart of this company's operations. If you would relish a more commercial, creative and involved position than is ever possible in a law firm and have c.1 years' PQE involving Professional Indemnity and/or Financial Institutions litigation you should find out more. Ref: 3396. Contact: Paul Rummades.

PROJECT FINANCE - IN HOUSE

Fascinating work with a very strong international focus awaits a 4-5 year qualified solicitor keen to leave private practice. This position would not suit everybody because it is varied, interesting and challenging and does demand proven experience of dealing with the financing of power related projects. Competitive salary and excellent perks. Ref: 3695. Contact: Paul Rummades.

BROADCASTING LAWYER - IN HOUSE

Major Broadcaster has an opportunity for an experienced lawyer with previous media exposure ideally gained in a broadcasting environment. The role encompasses a broad range of activities and advising various internal clients. This is an exciting and challenging position seen as pivotal within the organisation and provides an opportunity to work closely with the senior management. Ref: 3758. Contact: Richard Gawa.

Sidley & Austin
Precedents/Now-How Lawyer

You are...

- A lawyer with three (plus) years detailed knowledge and experience of banking/finance.
- Able to assist in drafting finance procedures for our banking department.
- Seeking a flexible contract on a full time or part time basis that will last for a period of six months.
- Seeking, if you so desire, an opportunity to combine office work with tele-working from home.

We are...

A prestigious City law firm offering:

- the opportunity for you to help organise and drive forward our business.
- a key role covering work of the highest quality.
- compensation at a rate that will reflect the importance of the role and comparable with other well-regarded City law firms.

Please write enclosing your CV to:

John Freeman
 Sidley & Austin
 Royal Exchange
 London EC3V 3LE

Telephone: 0171 360 3600
 Facsimile: 0171 360 7077
 Internet: jfreeman@sidley.com

EAST ANGLIAN CHAMBERS

NORWICH - IPSWICH - COLCHESTER

East Anglian Chambers congratulates Mrs Caroline Ludlow on her appointment to the Circuit Bench. This brings to six the current number of Judges who are former members of these Chambers.

Chambers is pleased to announce that Paul Shadarevian, a former partner of Norton Rose, and an editor of Butterworth's Planning Law Service has accepted an invitation to join Chambers.

The appointment of Caroline Ludlow creates an outstanding opportunity for an applicant of suitable experience and expertise to become a tenant. East Anglian Chambers is a large and long established set which continues to expand at each of its three centres in Norwich, Ipswich and Colchester.

Applications are therefore invited from practitioners of 8 years call and above, particularly those who practise in criminal law. Applications will be treated in confidence and should be addressed to Carol Bull at 5, Museum Street, Ipswich IP1 1HQ or DX 3227.

OPPORTUNITIES IN IP/IT/TELECOMS AND EC/COMPETITION

1-4 YEARS' PQE

Allen & Overy is one of the leading international law firms with over 1600 staff working in 15 major centres worldwide. The Corporate Department, which has gone from strength to strength in recent years, includes specialist areas such as IP/IT/Telecoms and EC/Competition. We are now looking for additional high calibre lawyers to join these teams.

IP/IT/TELECOMS

The IP/IT/Telecoms Group has extensive experience and advises on large-scale and frequently international commercial transactions in these sectors, particularly mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and financings. The IP/IT team advises on all types of technology-related contracts including electronic banking and outsourcing arrangements and multimedia projects.

We are looking for Corporate lawyers with 1-4 years' post qualification experience who have worked in IP/IT intensive industries. Telecoms experience would be an advantage.

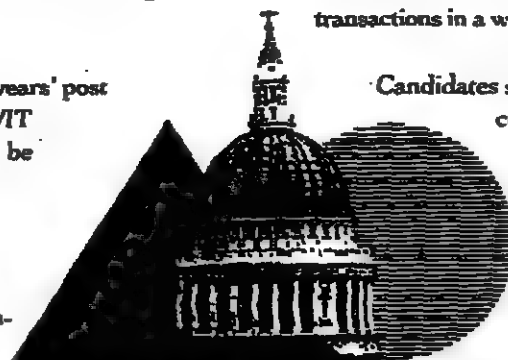
Candidates wishing to work across these sectors or to specialise in one or more areas will be considered as will candidates currently working in-house.

EC/COMPETITION

The EC/Competition Group is a well established team based in London and Brussels. The Group advises on a wide range of matters including EC law generally, EC and UK competition rules, international antitrust and the regulatory aspects of broadcasting, telecommunications and the utilities. You will advise on a full range of domestic and international transactions in a wide variety of business sectors.

Candidates should have 1-4 years' specialist experience in competition law gained in a leading firm. Prior experience of telecoms regulation, utilities or trade law would be particularly beneficial.

Please send your CV to: Christine Lynch, Personnel Manager, Allen & Overy, One New Change, London EC4M 9QQ or call her on 0171-530-4103.



ALLEN & OVERY

LONDON • BEIJING • BRUSSELS • BUDAPEST • DUBLIN • FRANKFURT • HONG KONG • MADRID • MOSCOW • NEW YORK • PARIS • PRAGUE • SINGAPORE • TOKYO • WARSAW

Oxon/Reading • The Midlands

Working in Oxford or Reading is a tempting alternative for many solicitors, both in terms of quality of life and quality of work. Salaries, whilst still lower than in London, are considerably higher than in the rest of the South East, and partnership prospects at the expanding firms are excellent. If you are due to qualify in September and are interested in discussing the opportunities on offer, or if you have up to 5 yrs post-qualification experience and are looking for the right career move, we would be more than happy to have a confidential chat with you. The vacancies listed below are just a sample of the excellent positions currently available.

OXFORD/READING COMMERCIAL LITIGATION
 Outstanding opportunities across the region for bright commercial litigators seeking high quality work, including a vacancy for a NQ to 18 month qualified solicitor, and a superb new opening for a litigator with 3-5 yrs' mixed commercial litigation experience.

OXFORD/READING CORPORATE AND PROPERTY
 We have recently seen an increase in instructions from top regional firms looking for assistants at the NQ-1yr, 1-2 yr and 2-4 yr levels with proven track records in either corporate law or commercial property. Attractive salaries guaranteed.

OXFORD/READING PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY
 Superb opportunity within vibrant Oxford professional indemnity team for a bright young solicitor at the NQ-2 yr ppe level; additional opening in Reading for a 1-4 yr ppe solicitor with experience of Personal Injury and/or Professional Indemnity.

THAMES VALLEY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
 Superb opportunities throughout the area for bright and ambitious Intellectual Property solicitors from Newly Qualified level upwards looking for high quality work and attractive prospects.

READING EMPLOYMENT
 Exciting opening at top notch firm for an outgoing Employment lawyer with 2-5 yrs ppe and a genuine interest in marketing. Attractive salary and excellent working environment guaranteed.

Please call: Liz Nease (Oxon/Reading) or Melanie Mitchell-Baker to Graham Gill & Young, 46 Kingsway, London WC2B 6EN. Fax: 0171 831 4136.

As a London or regional based solicitor, you may not have previously contemplated a career move to the Midlands. In terms of quality of work and that ever elusive quality of life, however, the region is able to offer an extremely attractive alternative to London. Salaries are excellent and the surrounding countryside is beautiful. Opportunities exist with good commercial firms in Birmingham, Northamptonshire and Warwickshire for solicitors, particularly at the 1-5 yr level. If you would like an initial chat in complete confidence, please give us a call. Listed below are an example of just some of our current instructions.

WARWICKSHIRE COMMERCIAL LITIGATION
 Highly regarded commercial firm in attractive location seeks 2-5yr qualified comm property solicitor. With impressive stable of clients, the firm is able to offer high quality caseload and excellent salary package. Ideal quality of life move for candidate with experience gained with well-respected firm.

BIRMINGHAM NEWLY QUALIFIED
 We have vacancies with well-regarded firms seeking 0-2yr ppe corporate and property solicitors (September 1997 qualifiers considered). Strong academics and training with major firm vital.

WARWICKSHIRE PROPERTY PARTNER DES.
 Experienced commercial property solicitor (prev 4-5 yrs ppe) sought by thriving medium-sized firm. Previous experience of co/comm work also desirable. Candidates should have proven track record in practice development.

NORTHANTS COMMERCIAL LITIGATION
 Superb opportunity for 1-3 yr qual solicitor to join well regarded firm in thriving market town.

WARWICKSHIRE MATRIMONIAL
 Niche firm seeks 0-2yr qual solicitor. Excellent training on offer to bright solicitor. Previous experience not required but training in well-respected firm is vital.



GRAHAM GILL & YOUNG

European Legal & Regulatory Director

Unique opportunity for an EC/Commercial Lawyer

Hill's Pet Nutrition Ltd, part of the Colgate-Palmolive Company, is a global leader in pet nutrition. It has experienced dynamic international growth and employs 2,000 people worldwide, who research, create, market and distribute its premium pet foods in over 50 countries.

Due to continued growth, Hill's seeks to appoint a Legal & Regulatory Affairs Director for its European Division, headquartered in the UK. The successful recruit will provide legal advice to the company's seven European subsidiaries on a wide variety of issues affecting the business, coordinate legal and regulatory affairs throughout Europe and oversee litigation. He/she will also represent Hill's in dealings with trade associations, industry bodies, member Governments and the EU Commission.

Candidates should have a minimum of five years experience within the EC or Commercial department of a major law firm or international company and will have experience of European regulatory matters. Applications are invited from lawyers qualified in the UK or the Netherlands. European languages in addition to English would be useful.

This is an exciting opportunity to carry out a varied and interesting workload, in a company that is a leader in its field. Hill's also offers a positive working environment and generous salary package, which includes a car and bonus.



Hatfield,
 Herts.

5 years +
 Excellent
 Package

For further details, please contact our retained consultants, Bridget Burdon, on 0171 430 1711, or write to her at Graham Gill & Young, 46 Kingsway, London WC2B 6EN (Fax 0171 831 4136). This assignment is being handled exclusively by Graham Gill & Young.



GRAHAM GILL & YOUNG

DINOSAURS NEED NOT APPLY

As a regional heavyweight, centrally located on the M4 corridor Townsends are looking for pro-active individuals to become key players in our litigation team and help to secure the next phase of continued growth to the year 2000 and beyond.

Our culture, management style and business approach reflect our forward thinking in line with our ambitious business plan.

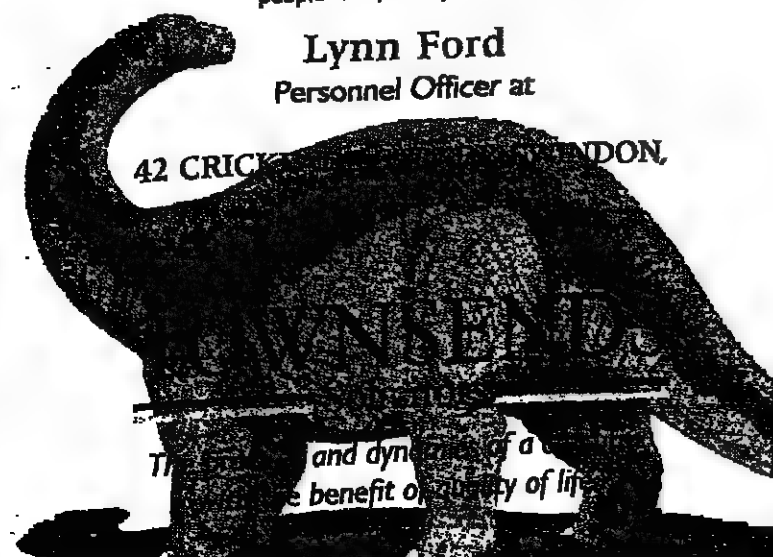
As a result of increased client led demand in litigation, we now require an enthusiastic litigator to help with the expanding business at our Newbury office.

We require sound general and commercial litigation experience, to support the busy corporate and property team based at the Newbury office. Plaintiff personal injury experience is also preferred as the successful applicant will help to develop personal injury work at Newbury.

If you are looking to work in an environment where your contribution is valued and possess strong motivation and good people skills, send your CV to

Lynn Ford
 Personnel Officer at

42 CRICKET ROAD, NEWBURY, OXON.



THOMAS COOPER & STIBBARD

SOLICITORS
 SHIPPING LITIGATION

We are a small to medium sized City firm specialising in shipping, banking and commercial law. The size of the firm belies the client base which contains a number of blue chip clients. We are forward looking and well-respected. Our practice is expanding and last year we opened an office in Singapore.

We now seek a shipping litigator of less than two years qualified to join our London office.

The successful candidate will need to show the abilities which are required to become a successful shipping solicitor. Experience in shipping is desirable but not essential.

We tend to recruit our assistant solicitors from our own trainees. This, therefore, represents a rare opportunity to join us.

Applications in writing only by letter and CV to:

Tim Goode
 Thomas Cooper & Stibbard
 52 Leadenhall Street,
 London EC3A 2DJ

(No Agencies)

TRY A CAREER THAT ISN'T LEGAL

Private company seeking to expand, following highly successful first five years of trading, seeks Graduates, aged 20-33, or those of sound academic background to be trained to the highest standard with aim of full profit participation within 2-3 years.

Call: Brandon Pritchard
 0171 497 0328

WISEMAN LEE Solicitors

Applications are invited for an "advocate" to join our civil litigation department to deal with applications at Court. Previous experience is essential. CVs to be sent to Mr Adam Wernshof, Wiseman Lee, 320 Barking Road, London E6 3BT.

CONTRACTS MANAGER

TRW, the NAFIS contractor and a major systems IT integrator, is seeking a professional with a minimum of seven years' experience in negotiating and managing commercial and governmental contracts.

Responsibilities for this position include developing and negotiating contractual terms and conditions, developing contractual provisions for tenders and reviewing tenders prior to their submission for completion. In addition, responsiveness and adherence to company guidelines, analysing and negotiating subcontracts, managing multiple contracts and subcontracts, providing customer interface, interfacing with senior management and technical staff, and performing contract administration duties will form part of your role. Some travel to the US and Europe will be required. Solicitors are encouraged to apply.

Please send your C.V. with salary history to: L. Pease, Contracts Manager, TRW SOL, Carlton House, 27a Carlton Drive, Putney, London SW15 2TE.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A CHANGE?

Practice Regulation Department
 Assistant Solicitor

The Practice Regulation Department of the Institute has responsibility for fulfilling the Institute's regulatory duties. The Legal Services Section of the Department provides legal support for all the regulated areas of insolvency, investment business and audit, as undertaken by regulated Chartered Accountants.

The Legal Services Section is seeking to recruit an Assistant Solicitor with up to six years' experience in any of the above areas. Applications from those without directly relevant experience will also be considered, as training will be given.

All applicants should be computer literate with strong drafting and oral skills as some committee and tribunal work will be undertaken by the successful candidate.

Salary according to age and experience, together with benefits. Flexible working arrangements may be possible.

The Institute, as an equal opportunities employer and the holder of the Investors in People award, welcomes applications irrespective of sex, race or disabilities.

To apply, please send your CV and covering letter to: Maureen Owens, Head of Human Resources, The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales, Chartered Accountants Hall, Moorgate Place, London EC2P 2BZ.

Closing date:
 23 April 1997

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE



AGRICULTURAL - Distribution - Specialist regional practice seeks quality regional solicitor. Sal 7/rel. 2-5 years PQE to join expanding department. Good opp. leading to partnership. Contact Paul Roberts at Gifford Wilson Angus (Ago) 0161 261 1171. Fax: 0161 261 4044.

ASA LAW Regal's regional practice seeks quality regional solicitor. Sal 7/rel. 2-5 years PQE to join expanding department. Good opp. leading to partnership. Contact Paul Roberts at Gifford Wilson Angus (Ago) 0161 261 1171. Fax: 0161 261 4044.

EMPLOYMENT/COOP - EXETER - Top commercial practice seeks Sal 2-4 yrs PQE to assist partner on good quality non-commercial matters. Client contact and real responsibility for new business. Contact: David & Co (Gag) Tel 01747 620227 Fax 01747 620247.

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Butterworths

LONDON OPPORTUNITIES

CONSTRUCTION TO £75,000

The construction and engineering practice at this firm is enjoying an unprecedented influx of new work including a substantial amount of high profile litigation. Its London office currently has vacancies for talented construction lawyers at junior and senior solicitor level. Successful candidates will have demonstrable litigation skills (not necessarily in this area) and must be used to handling large scale disputes, often with an international flavour. Excellent fast track opportunities. (Ref:9775)

CORPORATE/TELECOM TO £75,000

One of the City's top international law firms has developed an unrivalled reputation for its corporate work in the telecom sector. Having had contact of many of the largest deals in this area, the group is actively looking to expand by recruiting an assistant with ideally 2-4 years' relevant transactional (as opposed to regulatory) experience. You will benefit from a salary at the top of the City range. (Ref:9747)

BANKING TO £55,000

Progressive top 10 firm boasts a banking department that has gone from strength to strength in the last 2 years, acting for a quality client list which includes several large banks. The work is a genuine mix of over-specialisation is discouraged. Talented 2-4 year qualified banking assistants are now sought to join this team. You will be given every opportunity to realise your partnership goal in the earliest possible time frame. (Ref:9797)

IN-HOUSE TO £70,000

The leading international City firm is seeking high calibre assistants to join its In-House Department. Much of the work overlaps with corporate finance and banking, where the practice is firmly positioned as a market leader. For the right candidate, these positions offer genuine opportunities for fast track career progression, excellent support function creates a 'can do' environment rarely found in the larger City firms. (Ref:9708)

JUNIOR PROPERTY TO £47,500

This pre-eminent City property practice continues to attract work from some of the biggest names in the property arena, representing leading institutions, developers, investors, retailers and banks. This is an opportunity for a young and ambitious lawyer with up to 4 years' experience to enjoy a top quality caseload. Assistants are encouraged to take on a high level of responsibility at the earliest opportunity. Career prospects are excellent. (Ref:9725)

GENERAL BANKING TO £45,000

Rare generalist banking role. Client is a well known European bank with a close-link central legal function. Seeks a minimum banking lawyer with 3-4 years' experience from either a medium to large law firm or another bank. Your work will include single facility and syndicated lending and full range of corporate lending work. Will manage legal department, ensuring 'variable' hours and good prospects for career progression. (Ref:9792)

RETAIL/NORTH FINANCIAL TO £35,000

A lawyer with up to 2 years' general office experience is sought by this young, dynamic company. The role will be as a sole legal advisor to a small group of companies, advising on commercial contracts, marketing issues, retail law, employment and IP. A bright, independent manner is required with the desire to be closely involved in the business of this growing company. It is a very fun, relaxed environment in congenial surroundings. (Ref:9792)

CORPORATE TO £60,000

Highly successful, highly profitable City practice enjoys a well earned reputation for the excellence of its Corporate Department and now seeks further ambitious, able 1-5 year qualified lawyers. Verbal client base ranges from entrepreneurs to listed clients and financial institutions. High level of client contact is encouraged. The firm has a reputation for fast tracking candidates of partnership calibre. (Ref:9618)

IN-HOUSE PROPERTY TO £45,000 + BENS

European multi-national with UK headquarters in South London seeks a 3-4 year qualified property lawyer to work in-house. Ideal candidate will be City trained with broad property experience, wanting the opportunity to broaden their experience and advice on general company commercial law as well. Exceptional opportunity for a property lawyer to make a first move in-house and to maintain excellent quality work. (Ref:9732)

EC/COMPETITION TO £50,000

Pre-eminent media and communications firm seeks dynamic assistant at the 3-5 year level to join expanding competition and regulatory group. You will be at the forefront of some of the most controversial and difficult competition law issues, involving UK and international merger clearance, MNC enquiries, OFT investigations and advice on RTA and articles 85/86. You must combine competition law experience with demonstrable commercial acumen. (Ref:9743)

GENERAL BANKING TO £45,000

Rare generalist banking role. Client is a well known European bank with a close-link central legal function. Seeks a minimum banking lawyer with 3-4 years' experience from either a medium to large law firm or another bank. Your work will include single facility and syndicated lending and full range of corporate lending work. Will manage legal department, ensuring 'variable' hours and good prospects for career progression. (Ref:9792)

RETAIL/NORTH FINANCIAL TO £35,000

A lawyer with up to 2 years' general office experience is sought by this young, dynamic company. The role will be as a sole legal advisor to a small group of companies, advising on commercial contracts, marketing issues, retail law, employment and IP. A bright, independent manner is required with the desire to be closely involved in the business of this growing company. It is a very fun, relaxed environment in congenial surroundings. (Ref:9792)

ZARAK
MACRAB
BRENNER

ZMB

BRIEF ENCOUNTER

COMMERCIAL/MEDIA

Solicitor/barrister with relevant experience and around 4 years' pge, sought by this entertainment company based in London. Work will involve drafting and negotiating a wide range of agreements. This is a short-term contract which, for the right candidate, may well become permanent. Ref: 38651

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL

Progressive and much respected City firm, needs a 4-8 year qualified solicitor with corporate experience from a similar City firm environment. Immediate start, to assist with heavy workload and contract is open ended at this stage. Ref: 38856

NON FEE-EARNING

2+ years qualified solicitor/barrister needed for leading international law firm. Must have capital markets experience, be available immediately, and able to work within a small team. Contract for 2-3 months. Ref: 39360

FAMILY

General London practice with wide client base, requires a solicitor to assist with heavy workload as soon as possible. Ideally candidates must have at least 3+ years' pge together with up-to-date divorce and child care experience. Ref: 38537

PLANNING

Junior planning solicitor, with no more than 4 years' pge, sought by this City firm to undertake planning work including advocacy, negotiation of planning documentation and environmental assessment for major developments. Contract to start as soon as possible for 3-6 months. Ref: 38396

DOCUMENT NEGOTIATORS - DERIVATIVES

City based bank seeks a number of individuals, with previous capital markets experience, to initiate and negotiate derivatives documentation. Contract is to start as soon as possible for an indefinite period. Ref: 38860

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Leading company in the energy sector seeks a first class commercial property lawyer for a 2 year contract. Previous heavyweight experience essential with a minimum of 5 years' pge. Excellent opportunity for someone who is keen to gain in-house experience. Ref: 27070

COMMERCIAL

Solicitor/barrister, ideally with around 2-5 years' experience sought by this entertainment company based in the North West. Contract is for 3-6 months and candidates will be assisting a small team in a highly pressurized environment. Ref: 38393

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

London firm with strong commercial litigation practice, requires 1-4 year qualified solicitor to assist their busy department. Contract will be for 1 year, starting as soon as possible. Ref: 34811

EMPLOYMENT

Major consumer goods retailer seeks a 3-8 year qualified solicitor/barrister for 3 month contract. Candidates should have a mixture of contentious and non-contentious experience, with emphasis on the former. Immediate start. Ref: 27491

SPL

SPECIAL PROJECT LAWYER

For further information please call Emma Hopkiss or Nicky Rutherford-Jones on 0171-405 6062 (0181-540 2381 or 0171-350 0682 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Special Project Lawyer, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171 831 6394.

SPL is a QD Company

Private Practice
London

Company/Commercial
Booming company department of highly successful W.I. firm has general corporate and venture-capital vacancies at 2-5 years' pge.
Ref 34911 - Philip Boynton

Construction - Non-contentious
Major international firm, a leader in construction, seeks non-contentious specialists qualified 1-8 years' London based, excellent compensation.
Ref 21186 - Philip Boynton

Corporate Tax
Pre-eminent City firm, with unrivalled tax practice, has openings for high-calibre candidates with 0-4 years' pge; superb work and training.
Ref 21272 - Philip Boynton

Banking
Leading City firm requires banking lawyers with 0-5 years' pge to join its thriving team; outstanding prospects and quality of work on offer.
Ref 35934 - Nira Chandra

Employment
Ambitious employment lawyer with 1-3 years' pge sought by progressive medium-sized City firm; a stimulating environment in which to work.
Ref 35967 - Nira Chandra

Telecommunications
Major City player seeks telecoms lawyers with 1-3 years' pge; a stimulating environment in which to work.
Ref 35940 - Nira Chandra

Reuter Smith
8 Bream's Buildings
Chancery Lane
London EC4A 3DF
Tel: 0171 405 4191
Fax: 0171 242 1261
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Reuter Smith
Legal Recruitment

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TRADING LAW MANAGER

Cheshunt c.£34,000 plus excellent benefits including car

We're proud to be Britain's number one food retailer, voted the UK's 'Most Admired' company by 'Management Today'. It's a success story we intend to continue as we expand further into Europe. But we are equally proud of our record of providing high standards of legal compliance and safety, as well as satisfaction for all our customers, wherever they may be. That's why we attach such importance to the role of Trading Law Manager here at Tesco.

Working both individually and as part of the Trading Law and Consumer Affairs team, you will ensure we adhere to the letter and the spirit of the law in areas as diverse as Competition Policy, Food Law, Consumer Protection, Advertising Standards and Health and Safety. You will need to think creatively, devising ways to satisfy legal requirements and helping to determine compliance policies, without hindering the business, and at the same time adding maximum value to the customer.

You will need to interpret existing trading laws, anticipate the impact of proposed legislation and

lobby effectively on behalf of the Company in the UK and Europe, often having to work on a number of complex projects simultaneously. Highly committed and focused, with sound business awareness, you must be able to communicate at senior level, both within the business and externally with government bodies and enforcement agencies.

You should have at least 6-8 years' relevant experience, including a background in a retail environment or similarly dynamic commercial sector, and will ideally hold a relevant degree-level qualification in Law, Trading Standards or Environmental Health disciplines.

This is an exciting opportunity to play an influential role at the corporate heart of Britain's leading food retailer, a responsibility reflected in the highly competitive salary and benefits package, with excellent career prospects.

To apply, please write with a full CV, to: Nikki Malone, Tesco Stores Ltd, Tesco House, Delamare Road, Cheshunt, Herts EN8 9SL. The closing date for applications is 21st April 1997.

TESCO

Tesco is an equal opportunities employer

IN-HOUSE COMMERCIAL LAWYER
with sound experience of construction, ideally with an experience in construction contracts. The successful candidate will be based in the London/Essex area. Salary c.£35,000 plus benefits. Please send CV to: HRM, Tesco Stores Ltd, Tesco House, Delamare Road, Cheshunt, Herts EN8 9SL. Tel: 01747 555557 Fax: 01747 555557

PRIVATE CLIENT - HASTERS
Established firm seeks a solicitor with sound experience of private client work, including wills, probate, trusts and tax. The successful candidate will be based in the London/Essex area. Salary c.£35,000 plus benefits. Please send CV to: HRM, Tesco Stores Ltd, Tesco House, Delamare Road, Cheshunt, Herts EN8 9SL. Tel: 01747 555557 Fax: 01747 555557

INTERNATIONAL LAWYER

To assume responsibility for the in-house legal department of an expanding worldwide investment company. As part of his or her responsibility the successful candidate would also instruct and supervise professionals in overseas jurisdictions.

The knowledge of a second (major) language, the ability to travel and a keen commercial acumen are required.

This is a senior appointment to the management team which reports directly to the CEO.

Send a full CV to: Ref CMD
85 Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BW

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS SPECIALISTS

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Oliver Holt meets Andreas Moller, the destroyer of English dreams

Demon aims to torment Red Devils

MICHAEL URBAN

Matthias Sammer, the European Footballer of the Year, is sitting at a small, plastic-topped table reading a newspaper. Karlheinz Riedle is standing in a long row of autographed footballs that are lined up on a rack and Steffen Freund is pulling on a tracksuit top ready for training. In another corner of the room at the Borussia Dortmund training camp, Andreas Möller has his hand on his heart.

Möller is beating the palm of his hand against his chest in rapid movements, trying to show how his pulse was racing, how the adrenalin was pumping, on that balmy London night nine months ago when he fired Germany's sixth penalty high into the England net and ended a nation's hope that the European championship trophy was "coming home". To an English ear, his recollections still sound like an executioner's song.

"When Köpke saved Gareth Southgate's penalty, my heart started beating very fast," Möller said, "and it seemed like a long time until I put the ball on the spot. In those seconds, I just kept saying to myself 'you are going to score'. Then, when it went in, it was a strange, wonderful thing. I just felt free."

"I did not speak to Southgate afterwards, but I have seen the commercial with *Pizza Hut* and I thought that was a great idea. I love that kind of sense of humour. Even the English people I met on holiday in Majorca after the final were laughing with me about the penalty and wishing me good luck for the future. I met the Aston Villa chairman there and he gave me his card."

Providing that the muscle spasms in his legs that have forced him to consult a specialist in Frankfurt do not keep him out of the game, Möller will try to destroy another English dream tomorrow night. In the absence of the suspended Sammer, Möller will be the key player in Borussia Dortmund's attempt to establish a commanding lead over Manchester United in the first leg of their European Cup semi-final.

He is disappointingly likeable and unreservedly modest for a man who has risen almost as high as Diego Maradona and Ronald Koeman in the ranks of English international football's demonology. His strut towards the Germany fans after the penalty shoot-out at Wembley with his shorts hitched up high was as much a symbol of England's exit as Southgate's despair.

Worse still, for those who would love to hate him, he is a confirmed Anglophile, an admirer of our culture, our humour and our footballing



Möller faces the Germany fans after scoring the penalty that took his country into the final of the European championship last July

sportsmanship. "The game is strong but fair in England," he said. "You lose a game and everybody still shakes hands at the end."

Tomorrow, that will count for nothing. Möller's career has been sprinkled with honours, from the World Cup win in 1990 to being part of the Juventus team that won the UEFA Cup in 1993 to helping Dortmund win two consecutive Bundesliga titles. Yet he wants still more.

The midfield *splintermacher*, or playmaker, of the team, he usually occupies a position just behind the front two of Riedle and Stéphane Chapuisat, breaking quickly from

midfield, invigorated by the cheers of

the partisan crowds he says were one of his main reasons for returning to the Bundesliga from Serie A.

This season, together with Sammer, he has inspired Dortmund in their chase for a third successive title. Their 2-0 home win in a Ruhr Valley derby with VfL Bochum on Saturday moved them up to second in the table, three points behind Bayern Munich. When the more than 1,000 fans at a new, purpose-built facility, it is these two men whose names the supporters call out.

Möller, 29, whose cost Dortmund more than £3 million when they brought him back from Juventus,

says that both sides will be close, that Dortmund will suffer from the loss of Sammer but that they will not be disadvantaged by having to play the home leg first. More than anything, he is keen to stress that this is not Andreas Möller v England — part two.

"This is not the same," he said. "Manchester United is different. Before, it was the national team, but now this is Borussia Dortmund. No one has even joked with me that I must do to them what I did to England. That is finished now. In football, things move on every day; every day brings a new situation."

"What is important about this

meeting, though, is that, apart from Bayern Munich and Aston Villa, I can hardly remember a German team and an English team playing against each other in European club competition. Both Manchester United and Borussia Dortmund have been very strong in the last five years and I think, for European football, this will be a great semi-final. We can win our third successive Bundesliga title and we know that Manchester United are at the top of the Premiership again. These two games will be very hard and very strong. I do not see any favourite."

Hoddle backing United to make final breakthrough

FROM OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT, IN DORTMUND

THE Manchester United team arrived here yesterday to begin preparations for the first leg of the European Cup semi-final against Borussia Dortmund tomorrow night looking happy and relaxed after the reprieve of Liverpool's loss to Coventry City in the FA Carling Premiership.

They were warmed, too, by some timely words of encouragement from Glenn Hoddle, the England coach.

Hoddle, who believes that the national squad is already benefiting from the European experience gained by players such as David Beckham, David May, Nicky Butt and Gary Neville, thinks that United have learnt from their reverses against Juventus earlier in the competition and that they can lift the trophy.

"You learn more from the downsides than you do from the peaks," Hoddle said. "United have done that by bouncing back from the defeats against Juventus and they have grown in stature. If they played Juventus in the final this season, it would be closer than close because United will feel they are an improved side and have a much better opportunity of beating them."

Beckham and Gary Neville

are just two examples of players who have grown and learnt very quickly this season. I think United will win the Premiership and, whatever happens in Europe, I think this season's experiences abroad will make them better equipped to win the Champions' League next season.

"They have a good chance of getting to the final this season, but next season it should look even better for them. They have got other youngsters like Solskjaer who looked out of their depth in their earlier performances, but who have grown into the role now and who are ready for anything."

The United players arrived



Hoddle: encouragement

League chairman urges clubs to help themselves

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

DAVID SHEEPSHANKS, the chairman of the Football League, was elected just three months ago, yet launched an immediate offensive aimed at modernising the 72-club set-up that he had inherited. Yesterday, he appealed to his members to help themselves rather than indulge in mass self-pity.

As the FA Carling Premiership wallows in its wealth, Sheepshears, also chairman of Ipswich Town, urged the League clubs to look nearer to home for a solution. "It is only natural that we may cast a jealous eye at the fantastic riches of the Premiership," he said, "but it is not only the huge gap in income that affects us."

"Even more tangible and damaging is the inflation in operating costs ahead of income growth. This is directly attributable to the knock-on effect of large salary increases paid in the Premiership, but our response must be to adapt in a positive and proactive way."

The League has appointed independent commissioners to examine every aspect of life in the lower divisions. They are expected to report their recommendations early next month.

"Whatever we generate cen-

trally needs to be augmented by stronger, more robust, individual units." Sheepshears said. "We need to encourage greater self-reliance for clubs. We must address the key question of viability. We must seek to modernise, economise and maximise to make ends meet and to make profits for reinvestment."

The League is also to continue lobbying in an effort to retain its traditional place in the UEFA Cup for the winners of the Coca-Cola Cup, which is of the Coca-Cola Cup, which is under threat from next season.

In the Premiership itself, the war of words rages on about whether it should extend its season beyond May 11. Manchester United have led the case for, with Alex Ferguson, the United manager, particularly passionate in his argument.

With United facing a fixture backlog, because of their involvement in the European Cup, Ferguson has requested

that they should be able to play their final fixture, against Newcastle United, after the rest of the Premiership programme has been completed.

Bryan Robson, whose Middlesbrough side face similar problems, has backed United. "It's getting ridiculous," the Middlesbrough manager said. "I would prefer to see the season extended."

However, Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, yesterday supported the views of Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager. "It would be totally out of order for one club to play a game in isolation," Evans said. "You can't shift the goalposts at this stage of the season. You have to be fair to all clubs, big or small."

The grounds of Macclesfield Town, Kidderminster Harriers and Stevenage Borough, the leading clubs in the Vauxhall Conference, have been passed fit for League football next season.

SQUASH

Nicol earns Jansher's praise after marathon

By COLIN MCQUILLAN

JANSHER KHAN's victory over Peter Nicol in the final of the Leekes British Open championship in Cardiff late on Sunday evening may have been the most statistically significant match in the 67-year history of the game's greatest tournament.

Nicol, who celebrated his 24th birthday by reaching his first final, had never before advanced beyond the first round. "My greatest delight is in having broken a five-year jinx that may allow me to treat the British Open as the highlight of the year instead of a dreaded threat," the left-hander from Inverurie, in Scotland, said. "But I should have won it to make it perfect."

Jansher won 17-15, 9-15, 15-12, 8-15, 15-8 in 126 minutes. It was his sixth successive victory in the event and the longest match that the Pakistani, 27, could recall in his ten-year career on the Professional Squash Association (PSA) World Tour. It was also the first time that he had been forced to a fifth game in a British Open final.

The 15-point American scoring system was adopted by the PSA as much to reduce the workload on players as to increase entertainment, yet the longest match on record, between Jahangir Khan and Gamal Awad at Chichester in 1983, was played under the standard international nine-point, hand-in and hand-out scoring system and lasted only 20 minutes longer than the final on Sunday.

"This was not my toughest British Open final," Jansher said. "Some of the Australians



Jansher: sixth title

made me work harder, but Peter played the best squash I have seen from him and I won only because I was strong mentally and physically for the fifth game.

"If I had played as badly as I did in the semi-finals against Ahmed Barada, then Peter would be British Open champion today."

Played in front of an excited crowd that was willing Nicol on — although with the usual vocal Pakistani support that Jansher attracts wherever he plays — the match was a fast, thrilling spectacle, slightly marred by the apparent determination of Brian Gurnett, the referee, to control Jansher's increasing tendency to linger marginally in the path of his opponent and to widen his racquet swing.

Gurnett called 32 penalty strokes, 83 lets and 16 no-lets. "He also gave Peter strokes while I was getting lets," Jansher said. "There were so many in the fourth game I gave up and concentrated on winning the fifth."

In the women's final at Cardiff, Michelle Martin won her fifth successive title by defeating her Australian compatriot, Sarah Fitz-Gerald, the No 1 seed and world champion, 9-5, 9-10, 9-5 in 66 minutes.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
denotes at least match

UEFA Cup

Semi-finals, first leg

Tottenham v Schalke 04 (8.01)

Internazionale v AS Monaco (7.45)

Nationwide League

First division

Oxford v Birmingham (7.45)

Second division

Bury v Walsall (7.45)

Chesham v Walsall (7.45)

Luon v Wycombe (7.45)

Plymouth v Stockport (7.45)

Wrexham v Rotherham

York v Peterborough

Third division

Barnet v Southport (7.45)

Cambridge Utd v Northampton (7.45)

Darlington v Carlisle

Doncaster v Cardiff

Marshall v Fulham (7.45)

Wigan v Colchester (7.45)

Vauxhall Conference

Dover v Stevenage (7.45)

Southport v Morecambe (7.45)

Woking v Boreham (7.45)

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division

Cambridge City v Marlow (7.45)

Crawley v Merthyr Tydfil (7.45)

Northfleet v Burton Albion (7.45)

Southend v Thurrock (7.45)

Town v Green, Thurrock v Paget R. (7.45)

Wokingham v Sunningdale (7.45)

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John Hopkins on the major obstacle to Briton's ambitions

Faldo must master putting flaw

Late on the Saturday afternoon of the Players Championship, only two golfers were left on the putting green. Greg Norman was one. The other, who kept well away and was intent on his own practice, was Nick Faldo.

A year ago, these men, who have won eight major championships between them, were the central figures as the sixteenth Masters came to its tumultuous conclusion. To win his third Masters, during which he three-putted only once, Faldo played what Peter Alliss describes as his finest competitive round. He converted Norman's six-stroke lead after 54 holes to a five-stroke victory of his own. It was one of the most sensational afternoons of golf seen at Bobby Jones's famous course.

Twelve months later, as they brushed up their putting at Jacksonville, Norman was unconcerned. "A little grease on a squeaky hinge usually fixes it up," he said. For Faldo, however, putting was a worry again.

Of all the competitors at the Players Championship last month, Faldo was the second most accurate driver and the best at hitting greens in the required number of strokes. He was only the 64th best



Faldo's frustration on the greens surfaces at the Open Championship last July. Photograph: Ian Stewart

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putter, however. Often he concludes a round complaining, as he did after his second round at Jacksonville: "I have played a lot of good golf. I must have had 20 good chances in 36 holes and took hardly any of them. My putting is killing me."

Faldo can control his drives and judge his shots to the green with so much accuracy that the emphasis has switched to his putting. As he has become more accurate in controlling the rhythms of his long game, so he has become less successful on the greens.

"Nick does hit some weak putts," David Leadbetter, who has helped Faldo to remodel his swing, said. "Sometimes he has too long a stroke and decelerates, and when he hits a bad putt he tends to pull it. A lot of times, he won't trust his instincts and frustrates himself. He has to focus on the strike, to feel the ball on the face of the putter."

Much of the time that Faldo spent with Leadbetter last week was given over to putting. "His long game is a case of hey, that's good, let's hit the putting green," Leadbetter said. "He has been experimenting with a new putting grip—putting his index finger of his left hand on top of the fingers of his right hand. We have tried other routines. A lot of it is psychological. Last year, I had him playing the course mentally before he left the practice ground. Putting is frustrating. It slips you in the face all the time. How can you knock in a 30-footer one minute and miss a three-footer the next?"

In 1981, while practising for

the Open at Royal St George's, Faldo said: "I want to know everything there is to know about this course. I want to think about it non-stop. I want to eat, sleep and drink it. I want to dream about it at night." Little has changed. Winning major championships is his lifetime's work and winning six since July 1987 has made him the dominant golfer over the past ten years. He and Nick Price are the only men to have won three major championships in the Nineties.

Yet a slight misconception has grown up around Faldo in major championships. Faldo is perceived to be "Steady Eddie", a reputation born when he had 18 pars in the fourth round of the 1987 Open. "Faldo is a 'hit it down the middle, get it on the green and hole the putt' sort of player," Brad Faxon, the American Ryder Cup player, said. "He does not miss fairways as I do. When he's hot, he is very good. He is not going to mess up on crunch time too much."

The facts suggest otherwise. Faldo does make mistakes, perhaps more often than he should and certainly more often than he realised. Look at his results in the four majors and the Players Championship in the Nineties:

1990: Joint-fifth after a first round of 71 in the US PGA, he then dropped 11 strokes in his next two rounds.

YEAR	EVENT	(PAR)	SCORES	POSITION
1990	US PGA Championship	(72)	71 75 80 80	=19
1991	Open	(70)	68 75 70 68	=17
1991	US PGA Championship	(72)	70 69 71 78	=16
1992	US Open	(72)	70 78 68 77	=4
1992	US PGA Championship	(71)	69 70 78 67	=2
1993	Masters	(72)	71 78 79 67	=39
1994	Masters	(72)	76 73 73 74	=32
1994	Open	(72)	75 69 70 64	=8
1995	Players Championship	(72)	80 73	Missed cut
1995	US Open	(70)	72 68 79 72	=45

1991: Faldo squandered a good opening round of 68 in the Open with a horrible five-over-par 75 the next day. In the US PGA, he was near enough to John Daly after 54 holes to put pressure on the inexperienced American. He had a 76.

1992: A 70, a good start in the US Open, is followed by a 76, a very good third round of 68 by a 77. Just when he had a chance to strike for victory in the US PGA, he spoilt it with a five-over-par 76 in his third round.

1993: Second and third rounds of 76 and 79 ended his chances in the Masters.

1994: A 76 in the first round of the Masters, missed the cut in the US Open with rounds that totalled six over par and though a 75 in the first round of the Open was followed by three good rounds, there was

still a difference of 11 strokes between his lowest and highest rounds.

1995: An 80, eight over par, in the first round of the Players Championship and a 79, nine over par, in the third round of the US Open after opening rounds of 72 and 68.

This is not how Faldo is supposed to play. Musketeers such as Severiano Ballesteros and Arnold Palmer had scores like this when they were at their best. It was part of their appeal. Faldo is supposed to be metronomic, like Byron Nelson.

"Nick gets funny holes, like when he hit it up a tree at Pebble Beach and had a triple bogey at Baltusrol," Leadbetter said. "He loves to be in contention and when he is not, sometimes the fire goes out." These figures suggest that the

fire can go out when he is in contention, too.

Faldo will be 40 in three months. He expects to remain competitive for some years yet. He is happy now that his private life seems to be sorting itself out and, as he has said: "You've got to be happy off the golf course to be happy on the golf course. It helps tremendously."

Little has pleased him so much lately as winning the Los Angeles Open at the end of February, because the course where he averaged 26 putts a round is nicknamed Hogan's Alley. Faldo reveres the memory of Ben Hogan. In his mind's eye, Faldo sees pictures of Hogan tying for first in the 1953 US Open when 42 and nearly winning in 1960 when he was 47. He thinks to himself: "I can do that."

Faldo needs no reminding that Jack Nicklaus won the US Open, US PGA and Masters after he was 40 and that when Sam Snead slipped on the winner's green jacket at the 1954 Masters, he was 41. One more major championship would give Faldo seven and only Nicklaus, Walter Hagen, Hogan, Gary Player and Tom Watson have more.

"I have never got bored or fed up with golf," Faldo said. "I feel I have learnt so much over the past five years that I want to keep playing. I have a new knowledge of the game. Now is the time to use it."

Sick men of Europe take different routes

FROM JOHN HOPKINS IN AUGUSTA

SCENE: the practice ground at Augusta National Golf Club in Georgia. Time: 9.30 yesterday morning. A gentle spring sun shines on three golfers practising hard. The bystander hopes it will improve their health, humour and golf. Once Masters champions, they are now, for different reasons, the sick golfers of Europe.

On the left, Severiano Ballesteros is attended by Butch Harmon, formerly Greg Norman's coach and now working with Tiger Woods. Ballesteros is depressed. He has missed the cut in all five tournaments he has entered this year and, for his ten competitive rounds, he is 30 over par. He withdrew from an event in New Orleans last week because of flu. The champion here in 1980 and 1983 now cuts a lonely, rather sad figure.

Next to Ballesteros is José María Olazábal, the 1994 champion, who has finished twelfth, fourth and first in his European events since February and seventh in New Orleans on Sunday. For these events, he is 41 under par. His driving is a little wild, his putting sometimes not so true, but he is categorised in the group because last year he missed the Masters because of

suspected rheumatoid arthritis in his feet.

On the right is Sandy Lyle, the 1985 Masters champion, but a man who has been struggling to find any sustained form for some years. In due course, they leave the practice ground and, taking their putters, spend half an hour reacquainting themselves with the formidable speed and slopes of the putting surfaces they will shortly encounter. And then they walk the 25 yards to the 1st tee.

No matter how well Ballesteros and Lyle seem to strike the ball in practice, it is different the moment they reach the course. Sure enough, Ballesteros's first drive soars away to the right, chattering among spectators. He takes another and leaves it well short of a bunker on the right. On the 2nd hole, the stroke is similar. Ballesteros, once again, is all over the place.

Lyle is not much better. His tee shot ends in the bunker and he bangs his club on the ground in frustration. Only Olazábal looks in good form. His drive bisects the fairway, his second ends ten feet from the flag.

This is how the week of the 61st Masters began for the sick men of Europe. How will it end?

TELEVISION CHOICE

Battle of the vegetable plot

Wild Britain: How Does Your Garden Grow? Channel 4, 8.00pm

Although this is a natural history series, tonight's programme will be of equal interest to gardeners and particularly those trying to sustain a vegetable plot against the ravages of pests. Thanks to modern photography these destroyers can not only be identified but blown up to several times their normal size. Slugs, snails, aphids, root-flies and weevils are all revealed in monstrous close-up. The story is not all one way. In similarly impressive detail, the film features the gardener's friends. It shows slow worms devouring slugs, ladybirds nipping into blackfly and hedgehogs eating snails. The commentary is forced to admit that the pests greatly outnumber their destroyers. But it still argues against using chemicals, which kill the useful insects as well as the pests.

Murder One

BBC2, 9.00pm

It gets complicated when the same show is playing on different channels, particularly when it is at different stages. Anybody who has been following *Murder One* on Sky since the beginning of the year will hardly want to start all over again on BBC2. But for newcomers the second helping of Steven Bochko's marathon tawd through the American legal system should prove just as watchable as the first. Ted Hoffman of the bald head has gone but most of the other characters return and the show has a new lawyer hero, played by Anthony LaPaglia. His first job is to defend a blousy young woman charged with murdering the Governor of California and his mistress. For those who found one case spread over 23 episodes a shade wearying last time will be glad to know that in the new series three cases are jostling for attention.

Witness: Tottenham Ayatollah

Channel 4, 9.00pm

Omar Bakri Mohammed is Britain's leading Islamic fundamentalist. He has called for a holy war against the United Kingdom and has promised that homosexuals, adulterers and fornicators will be stoned to death. He is not very keen on Jews, either, which is why it is surprising that he allowed Jon Ronson of that faith to make a



Omar Bakri Mohammed (C4, 9.00pm)

film about him. But despite his extreme views Omar has a certain charm and the two men strike up a guarded rapport. Ronson even finds himself acting as Omar's chauffeur. Although the camera crew follows him over a year it is hard to know how seriously Omar should be taken. Many feel outraged that he preaches terror and revolution while living off social security. But when he calls for the immediate arrest of the Spice Girls, he seems more bluff than a serious threat to the state.

Network First: The Chicken Trade

ITV, 10.40pm

The programme is being completed too close to transmission to be seen in advance and in any case the sensitive nature of the material has made the production company, Granada, reluctant to release many details in advance. But the subject, paedophilia and child pornography, is not only horribly topical but deserves the sort of exposure that a responsible television documentary can give. The film highlights British paedophiles who prey on homeless and vulnerable children and follows a trail that leads from the streets of London to the brothels of Amsterdam. It confronts men who deal in child pornography and shows how young boys are recruited into prostitution. Victims and relatives describe their ordeals and there are interviews with police officers whose job it is to catch the perpetrators. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

National Service: The Best Years of Their Lives

Radio 2, 9.30pm

For the darker side of the two-year spell of National Service which conscripts had to endure between 1949 and 1960, you had to watch last week's *Army of Innocents* on BBC1. In that documentary, there was little to choose between the blood and guts of the Korean war and the monstrous barrack-square tyranny of the Regimental Sergeant Major. In Radio 2's account of the National Service years, presented by ex-private 22157741 Leslie Thomas, author of *The Virgin Soldiers* there is the odd reminder of the terrors of the parade ground and the warfront, but essentially, these reminiscences by former National Service squaddies such as Michael Aspel and Henry Cooper are of the lighthearted variety.

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiteley 2.00pm Radio 1 News 3.15 Newswatch 6.15 Newsday 6.30 Evening Session with Steve Lamacq 8.30 Digital Update 8.40 John Peel 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Claire Sturgess 4.00a Claire Warren with the Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Dingle 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Alan Freeman A new series featuring choice cuts from the world of opera and popular classics 8.00 Noel Hood 9.15a In the Dog with Georgina Boyes 9.30 National Service: The Best Years of Their Lives. See Choice 10.30a Richard Atkinson 10.30a The Jamesons 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00a Alex Leslie

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, includes Racing Preview 8.00 The Magazine 12.00a Midday with Mairi 2.00pm Rufus on Five 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.25 The Tuesday Night introduced by Simon Mann 10.00a Brian Hayes's Election Night 12.00a After Hours with Vincent Hanna 2.00am Up All Night

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr 7.00 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00a Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00a Mo'Nique's Sportszone 10.00a James Walsh 1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Correll (Concerto Grosso in G minor, Op 6 No 8, Christmas); Tchaikovsky (Suite No 1 in D minor); Verdi (Belshazzar's Feast); Mozart (Clarinet Concerto in A, K622); Liszt (Waltz on Two Moulds from Donizetti's Lucia di Lammermoor); Palestrina (Missa Assumpta est Maria) 9.00 Morning Collection, with Penny Gore. Includes Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No 3 in G); Haydn (Piano Trio in C, H21); Loewe (Archibald Douglas); Copland (Suite, The Tender Land) 10.00a Musical Experiences, with Piers Burton-Pagge. Includes Haydn (Symphony No 48 in F minor, La Passione); Liszt (Faux-Folies, Transcendental Studies); Janacek (In the Mist); Poulenc (Figure Humaine); Beethoven (Violin Concerto in D); Beethoven (Violin Variations, Op 120) 12.00a Composer of the Week: Rossini. See Choice 1.00pm BBC Orchestra: The Romantic Piano. 10.00a Western Music, with Piers Burton-Pagge. Includes Albert's Piano Concerto No 2 with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Martyn Brabbins. Also the orchestral version of Liszt's Mephisto Waltz No 1 and Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony 2.25a Voltaire. The first of two programmes in which the Welsh tenor Dennis O'Neill performs songs by Voltaire. Accompanied by the pianist Ingrid Supergren (f) 3.10a Sounding the Century: Rachmaninov. The BBC National Orchestra of Wales, under David Atherton. Rachmaninov (Symphony No 1 in D minor) (f) 4.00a Spirit of the Age. Bayan Northcott and Michèle Wandor look at the influences of Renaissance and Baroque music on Brahms's work (f) 5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10a Farming Today 6.25a Prayer for the Day 6.30a Today, Includes Thought for the Day 9.00a News 9.05a Carl Robin Lustig. The topical phone-in chat show. call 0171-580-4444 10.00a News. Wiston Jones Willbourn (FM). In the first of a new series, Oliver Willbourn travels with the reindeer-herders of Siberia 10.00a Daily Service (LW) 10.15a On This Day (LW) 10.20a Medicine Now. A weekly look at the welfare state Presented by Geoff Watts 12.00a News; You and Yours. Consumer news and current affairs with Lesley Hiddoch 12.25pm Word of Mouth. Russell Davies explores words and the way we speak. Includes a look at the actor Hugh Walters as he coaches aspiring performers who are keen to preserve the art of speaking poetry (2/6) 12.25a Weather 1.00a The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40a The Archers (f) 1.55a Shipping Forecast 1.55a News Briefing and Commentary, with John Walsh Includes a look at the authorship of the James Bond novels, which has passed to three different writers since the death of Ian Fleming (5/8) (f) 2.30a Karl Deneke Te Kanawa talks to June Knorr-Meyer about her life and her music (f) 3.00a The Afternoon Shift, with Doreen Brehan. Includes Simon Townley reflecting on the pitfalls of being invited to be the party pianist 4.00a News 4.05a Kaleidoscope. Paul Vaughan reads Europe, a new novel by Tim Parks and sees Mark Elder conduct the Berlin opera The Turn of Mind 4.45a Short Story: Kew and Me. Read by Derryn O'Moide

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10a Farming Today 6.25a Prayer for the Day 6.30a Today, Includes Thought for the Day 9.00a News 9.05a Carl Robin Lustig. The topical phone-in chat show. call 0171-580-4444 10.00a News. Wiston Jones Willbourn (FM). In the first of a new series, Oliver Willbourn travels with the reindeer-herders of Siberia 10.00a Daily Service (LW) 10.15a On This Day (LW) 10.20a Medicine Now. A weekly look at the welfare state Presented by Geoff Watts 12.00a News; You and Yours. Consumer news and current affairs with Lesley Hiddoch 12.25pm Word of Mouth. Russell Davies explores words and the way we speak. Includes a look at the actor Hugh Walters as he coaches aspiring performers who are keen to preserve the art of speaking poetry (2/6) 12.25a Weather 1.00a The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40a The Archers (f) 1.55a Shipping Forecast 1.55a News Briefing and Commentary, with John Walsh Includes a look at the authorship of the James Bond novels, which has passed to three different writers since the death of Ian Fleming (5/8) (f) 2.30a Karl Deneke Te Kanawa talks to June Knorr-Meyer about her life and her music (f) 3.00a The Afternoon Shift, with Doreen Brehan. Includes Simon Townley reflecting on the pitfalls of being invited to be the party pianist 4.00a News 4.05a Kaleidoscope. Paul Vaughan reads Europe, a new novel by Tim Parks and sees Mark Elder conduct the Berlin opera The Turn of Mind 4.45a Short Story: Kew and Me. Read by Derryn O'Moide

5.00 PM. Presented by Charlie Lee-Potter 5.50a Shipping Forecast 5.55a Weather 6.00a Six O'Clock News 6.30a No Commitments. The comedy by Simon Brett following the lives of three sisters. Starring Rosemary Leach, Nicola Pagett and Celia Imrie (4/8) (f) 7.00a News 7.05a The Archers 7.20a File On 4. In the first of a new series, Julian O'Halloran examines how much is known about the so-called "Gulf War Syndrome", after last month's criticism of the Ministry of Defence by a House of Commons Committee 8.00a Science Now. A weekly review of the latest discoveries and research in the scientific community. Presented by Anne Grayson (f) 8.30a The New Sexual Nature. Dr Gillian Rice explores our desire to find the perfect mate, something we share with the animal kingdom (2/4) (f) 9.00a In Touch. News and views for visually impaired people Presented by Peter White 9.30a Kaleidoscope (f) 9.55a Weather 10.45a Book at Bedtime. With Isabel Hilton P. Harley Read by John Rowe (2/10) (f) 11.00a Mediamove. A look at the week's media events with Vincent Hanna (f) 11.30a Tales from the Rhododendrons. The second of a three-part series looking at life in Britain in the decade after the end of the Second World War (f) 12.00a News Inci 12.27am approx Weather 12.30am The Little Book: Going to Meet the Man, by James Baldwin. Read by Paul Winfield (2/2) (f) 12.45a Shipping Forecast 1.00a As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.8-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-92.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6. LW 198. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 893, 808. WORLD SERVICE. FM 94.0, 94.1, 94.2, 94.3, 94.4, 94.5, 94.6, 94.7, 94.8, 94.9, 95.0, 95.1, 95.2, 95.3, 95.4, 95.5, 95.6, 95.7, 95.8, 95.9, 96.0, 96.1, 96.2, 96.3, 96.4, 96.5, 96.6, 96.7, 96.8, 96.9, 97.0, 97.1, 97.2, 97.3, 97.4, 97.5, 97.6, 97.7, 97.8, 97.9, 98.0, 98.1, 98.2, 98.3, 98.4, 98.5, 98.6, 98.7, 98.8, 98.9, 99.0, 99.1, 99.2, 99.3, 99.4, 99.5, 99.6, 99.7, 99.8, 99.9. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McManus.

Health, Fitness & The Great Outdoors

XL FOR MEN

Beach fashion special
Sunglasses
Swimwear
Super-safe tanning

Shape up!!!

for summer

BECAUSE YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE

Debate? Vox pop beats soap box every time

One of the distinguishing marks of the electoral campaign on television is that news and current affairs programmes are not very enlightening about the deeper issues. This is mainly the fault of politicians, who prefer sound bites to exploring new ideas. Happily there is an alternative.

Documentary makers perform the valuable service of getting to grips with the consequences of policy, usually without the need to interview any politicians. Documentaries at their best show us the reality of social change, reach beyond the sound bites and the statistics and cast a light in dark corners.

Two programmes on Channel 4 last night had more to say about two aspects of government policy over the past couple of decades than any number of *Newsnight* punch-ups or *Panorama* debates

and they did so through the simple expedient of letting involved people speak for themselves.

The latest example was Mrs Cohen's *Money*, a new series presented by the Barbara Windsor soundalike, Bernice Cohen. She is what we have come to recognise as a television natural, all flattened vowels and waving arms. If you had to guess how Cohen made £250,000 in seven years, you might say she did it from a barrow in a London market. In fact she did it at a somewhat posher market, the London Stock Exchange.

Cohen lost her life savings a few years ago in a publishing venture that went belly up. She sold the family home to pay off debts and set about buying shares, having decided that the Thatcherite call for a share-owning democracy meant the likes of her, if it meant anyone.

Cohen would be quite interesting as an ordinary investor, but

she is fascinating as an investment campaigner. She does not think much of the actual outcome of the 1990s rush to make shareholders of us all. She points out that most people who bought into the privatisation utilities simply sold short-term and never returned to the market: only 25 per cent of share buyers went on to invest more widely.

Cohen and others believe that the Stock Exchange cares about looking after big companies, not small investors. Keith Large, a stores manager from Leicester, has turned £5,000 into £30,000 in five years. He says: "It doesn't matter whether you've been to Harrow or Hackney High. The stock market is for everybody. Don't ever believe these big boys in the City who say you need thousands to start with. The reason they tell you that is because they don't want you there."

REVIEW



Peter Barnard

Large and Cohen are self-taught: they bought books, they read the financial press. Hopefully future programmes in the series will make it clear that the stock market is high risk, but Cohen is undoubtedly right in making the core point that the stock market offers investors a far better potential return than the deposit accounts we are encouraged to use. If wider share ownership is a

political football from the previous decade, the National Health Service is still very much in play, albeit scuffed and softened by crumpling tactics. Channel 4 began a three-part called *The Surgery* last night and very useful it is, too: politicians are so obsessed with patient throughput and other gobbledygook that it was a pleasant change to come upon doctors doctoring.

The Robert Darbishire Practice in Rusholme, Manchester, is unusual in that it is run by Manchester University and the doctors are paid a university salary rather than being partners. But the overwhelming impression from the opening programme was that dedicated GPs in inner city areas are fighting a battle in which the stakes grow larger but the armoury is shrinking.

Dr Anwar Esmail is the head of practice and he is under no illusions: "To believe that somehow as

doctors we're going to make a difference is just crazy. We're just firefighting, we're just trying to hold the fires from spreading. That's how I see my job."

This may sound defeatist but it simply recognises the reality. On the wall of his surgery, Dr Esmail keeps the famous poem in which Bertolt Brecht describes a poor man visiting his doctor with a chest infection caused by damp housing. The doctor gives the man a prescription but says that what he really needs is a prescription for a new house.

The abiding memory from last night's programme concerns one of the doctors taking a child with a bladder disorder to a hospital to have the child admitted. The reception area is deserted, the desk unmanned. A bell is rung, there is no response. There is a series of conversations via some sort of buzzer with

somebody in another part of the hospital. Still nobody arrives. Eventually the doctor has to go to see another patient, leaving the boy and his father at the desk. They might still be standing there. And so to the vexed question of removing wax from silver candlesticks. I know, it's a terrible worry. What you have to do is line a washing up bowl with foil, put crystals on the foil, mix with water and place the candlesticks... hang on a minute, I may have got that wrong, that may be the technique for cleaning silver cutlery.

The *Antiques Show* (BBC 2) is a new series, presented by Francine Stock, which is full of useful tips. And I enjoyed the item on Bridget Beasley, who's filled every inch of her small cottage with, er, junk over the past 26 years. Her dog weighs 12 stone but has never broken anything. He should try harder.

6.00am Business Breakfast (33021)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (45779)
8.00 Breakfast News Extra (1) (8153427)
9.00 Style Challenge (3674392)
9.45 Kilroy (1) (2202040)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (80779)
11.00 News (1) regional news and weather (4752175)
11.05 The Really Useful Show (1) (9295866)
11.35 Change That (8619040)
12.00 News (1) regional news and weather (4752175)
12.05pm Call My Bluff Panel game with Sandy (1) (8074444) 4.20 Julie, Julie, Julie, hosted by Bob Holness (5071972)
12.35 Good Living Presented by Jane Asher (802243)
1.00 News (1) and weather (48866)
1.30 Regional News (50458175)
1.40 The Weather Show (3891863)
1.45 Neighbours (1) (6104773)
2.10 Quibby With Jack Klugman (1) (7766750)
3.00 Through the Keyhole Celebrity homes with guests Eve Pollard, Times columnist Alan Coran and Stan Lloyd (6358)
3.30 Mouse and Mole (8812934) 3.35 Playdays (1) (812234) 3.55 Ant & Dec New series (5110040) 4.20 Julie, Julie, Julie, hosted by Bob Holness (5071972)
4.30 Pirates (1) (7532423) 5.00 Newsround (1) (5280382)
5.10 The Lowdown Profile of ten-year-old, Romanian-born painter Alexandra Nechitu, whose canvases sell for up to \$100,000 (1) (313077)
5.35 Neighbours (1) (1) (776243)
5.45 News (1) and weather (427)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (779)
7.00 Holiday Jill Dando returns to a childhood holiday resort in west Somerset, Fern Britton tries hot-air ballooning in Tuscany, Martin Bell checks out Croatia and John Holdsworth spends a bargain break in Pledgy (1) (1040)
7.30 EastEnders Ian comes face to face with a ghost from his past and Tiffany is relieved to finally hear good news from Grant (1) (663)
8.00 Children's Hospital A premature baby born at home is rushed to the emergency ward suffering from breathing difficulties, while twin sisters with heart defects undergo surgery (1) (7088)
8.30 Goodnight Sweetheart Gary and Phoebe pay a visit to wartime Liverpool (1) (6595)
9.00 News (1) regional news and weather (5717)
10.00 Rich Deceiver Drama about an ordinary woman who has an extraordinary idea of good fortune. With Lesley Dunlop, John McArthur, John Saltmarsh and David Yip (1) (847330)
11.50 Harry in Your Pocket (1973) A comedy about a lot of professional pickpockets who embark on a crime spree in Seattle. With James Coburn, Michael Sarrazin and Walter Pidgeon. Directed by Bruce Seiler (1) (22514)
1.30am Weather (5464084)

6.00am Open University: Venice and Antwerp - Forms of Religion (2459953) 6.25 Wendepunk (2478088) 6.50 Composer and Audience: Tippett and Stravinsky (107623) 7.15 Sea Hear Breakfast News (1) (8253958) 7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (1) (1) (4357021) 7.55 Blue Peter (1) (1) (5839595) 8.20 Secret Life of Toys (1) (3321514) 8.35 The Raccoons (9057953) 9.00 Cartoon (2117359) 9.10 Enchanted Tales (1) (887511) 10.00 Teletubbies (30059) 10.30 The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles (1) (1356682) 11.15 The Detectives (1) (213327) 11.45 Cartoon (6260156) 12.00 See Hear! (1) (58501) 12.30pm Working Lunch (22243) 1.00 Secret Life of Toys (1) (59398430)
1.15 The Great Lie (1941, b/w) Oscar-winning drama with Bette Davis, George Brent, Mary Astor and Lucile Watson. A woman is grief-stricken by the disappearance of her husband. Directed by Edmund Goulding (2611679)
3.00 News (1) (7716040) 3.05 Campaign Roadshow (1) (893175) 3.55 News (1) (8934224) 4.00 Blockbusters (8844011) 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (8954086)
4.55 Esther Servants in the 1990s (9813021)
5.30 Today's the Day (158)
6.00 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air (1) (186392) 6.25 Heartbreak High (1) (187156)
7.10 The O Zone With Bill Burr, Supergirl, Robbie Williams and The Charlatans (1) (580514)
7.30 From the Edge Election Special Politicians field questions from disabled voters. Last in series (205)
7.58 Video Nation Election Shorts (70137)
8.00 The House Detectives The architectural experts visit Abbott Lodge in Leobury, Hereford and Worcester. Last in series (8330)
8.30 Food and Drink Three carnivores from Newcastle accept the challenge to spend a week as vegetarians (1) (4137)

6.00am GNTV (6750088)
9.25 Chain Letters (1) (3682311)
9.55 Regional News (1) (2711798)
10.00 The Time, the Place (27885)
10.30 This Morning (1) (6117359)
12.20pm Regional News (1) (4425427)
12.30 News (1) (988040)
12.54 HTV CrimeStoppers (79414137) 12.55 Shortland Street (813359) 1.25 Home and Away (4275934) 1.50 Afternoon Live (5839604) 2.20 Vanessa (1) (4251993) 2.50 Afternoon Live (3071330)
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5.10 Bagged Cat (1) (1655311)
5.40 News (1) and weather (1) (319021)
6.00 Home and Away (1) (1) (193446)
6.25 HTV Weather (20817)
6.30 HTV News (1) (175)
7.00 Emmerdale Chris drops a financial bombshell on Rachel (1) (3408)
7.30 The Learning Feasting a look at modern apprentices at the Rover plant in Swindon; a school in Taunton which promotes inclusive education for children with disabilities; a maths masterclass for Bristol secondary school pupils; and persuading teenagers not to drink and drive (1) (358)
8.00 The Bill Conway learns the worst when a teenager goes missing (1) (2158)
8.30 Love by You Kate persuades Michael that they need a cleaning lady (1) (1683)

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6.00am Open University: Venice and Antwerp - Forms of Religion (2459953) 6.25 Wendepunk (2478088) 6.50 Composer and Audience: Tippett and Stravinsky (107623) 7.15 Sea Hear Breakfast News (1) (8253958) 7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (1) (1) (4357021) 7.55 Blue Peter (1) (1) (5839595) 8.20 Secret Life of Toys (1) (3321514) 8.35 The Raccoons (9057953) 9.00 Cartoon (2117359) 9.10 Enchanted Tales (1) (887511) 10.00 Teletubbies

EQUESTRIANISM 43

Shortage of funds
puts Hickstead's
future in doubt

SPORT

TUESDAY APRIL 8 1997

GOLF 46

Can Faldo master
his putting in
time for Augusta

Faultless display of front-running secures decisive victory in restaged Grand National

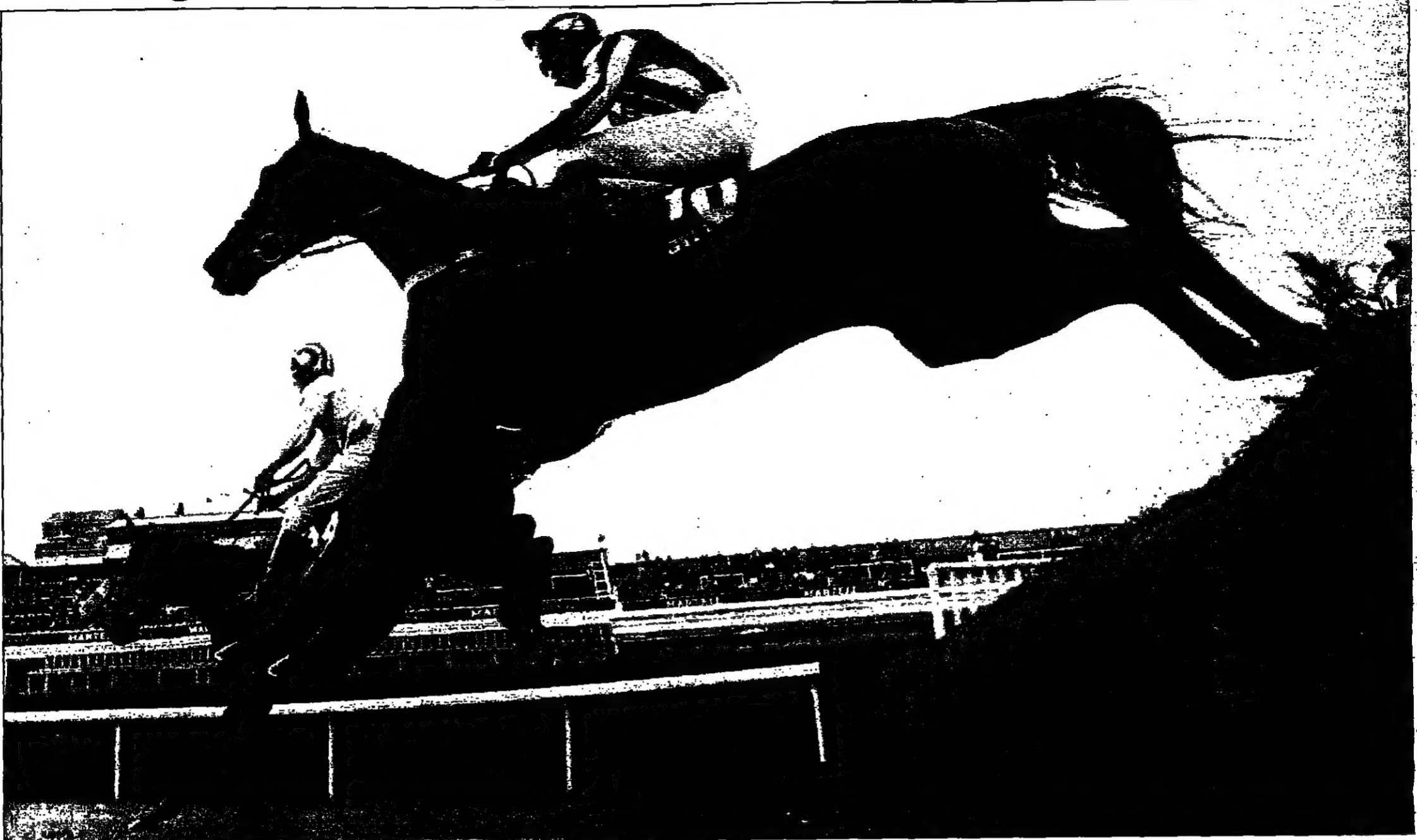
Lord Gyllene gallops into history

By RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

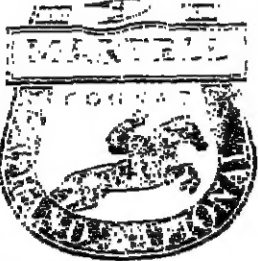
LORD GYLLENE made a symbolic statement for racing and the nation yesterday when he led from the front and refused to be headed or denied in the rescheduled Manell Grand National.

Watched by a surprisingly large crowd of 20,000, which included the Prime Minister and the Princess Royal, the New Zealand-bred nine-year-old showed enormous courage and stamina to become the first horse since Troytown in 1920 to make all the running in the 4½-mile race.

However, it was his jumping of Aintree's unique 30 fences that cemented the wide margin of victory. He did not



Lord Gyllene (No 10) clears the water jump during his courageous performance in the rescheduled 150th Grand National at Aintree yesterday. Photograph: Julian Herbert / Allsport



NATIONAL DETAILS

- 1 LORD GYLLENE... 14-1
2 Suny Bay... 8-1
3 Camelot Knight... 100-1
4 Buckboard Bounce... 40-1

make a semblance of an error and the only danger was provided by a loose horse that threatened to force Lord Gyllene out of the race at the water jump.

When Suny Bay made a costly error four fences from home, Lord Gyllene and Tony Dobbin were free to forge away from struggling rivals. At the line, he was 25 lengths clear of Suny Bay, with a further two lengths back to Camelot Knight, a 100-1 outsider. Buckboard Bounce, at 40-1, was fourth. Go Ballistic, who was sent off a 7-1 favourite, was pulled up after falling at Valentine's on the second circuit.

The Grand National invariably produces a fairy-tale and

Lord Gyllene's victory completes a rags-to-riches adventure for his owner, Stan Clarke, that offers hope to anyone who dreams of winning the world's greatest steeplechase.

Clarke, 63, is a multi-millionaire with all the trappings associated with such wealth. A member of the Jockey Club, he owns

Uttongton and Newcastle racecourses, as well as a string of expensive racehorses. However, it was not always thus.

"I was a butcher's boy and went out and earned a living after my father became very ill when I was nine," he recalled in his moment of triumph. "At 15, I started an apprenticeship as a plumber."

After being turned down by the Army at the age of 21 due to his health record, Clarke became a plumber in the village of Barton-under-Needwood, where he still lives, and started up a business with £109. In 1987, he sold

the company for £51 million. Meanwhile, he set up St Modwen, a property company, which is now valued at £100 million.

"I've been around in racing for 35 years — and this is a very exciting moment for me. Aintree has all the magic of National Hunt racing. It is the greatest race in the world."

Clarke gains particular pleasure from choosing his own horses, many of them from New Zealand, and Lord Gyllene reminded him of another Aintree legend when he first saw him on a video 18 months ago. "He reminded

me so much of Red Rum. When Ginger McCain [the trainer of Red Rum] saw him, he told me I had a nice horse."

A keen eye for equine talent is matched by shrewd judgment of those who attempt to get the best out of horses. Steve Brookshaw, a point-to-point jockey since he was 14, first caught Clarke's attention as a rider before he went on to train hunters and point-

pointers. However, the turning point came two years ago when Clarke persuaded him to take out a full licence and train at Uffington, near Shrewsbury.

Twelve months ago, Brookshaw sent out Rolling Ball to win the Foxhunters Chase over Aintree's National fences. The success with Lord Gyllene yesterday not only confirmed his ability as a trainer but helped to make up for the misfortune suffered by his uncle, Tim Brookshaw. In the 1959 Grand National, his horse, Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, briefly looked a threat before tiring.

Gyllene was shadowed by Suny Bay and Smith's Band for the first circuit, during which there was little change in the running order. Smith's Band fell fatally at the twentieth fence — Straight Talk was also killed, at the seventh — and Master Oats, the 1995 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, briefly looked a threat before tiring.

And so Lord Gyllene became free to gallop into the history books. Not only did he succeed in the 150th running of the race; he won the most crucial Grand National of all time.

Having touched down in front at the first fence, Lord

Nation's resolve unfettered by ring of steel around Aintree

Rob Hughes on the day that joy and determination were the real winners

It had to happen: the Grand National that the IRA threatened to bomb was won yesterday, 49½ hours late, by a man called Dobbin, who hails from Downpatrick in Northern Ireland.

Tony Dobbin, 24 and with the appearance of an unchained schoolboy, led the 150th Grand National, the very first on a Monday, from start to finish and it was just coincidence that the horse, Lord Gyllene, has a name resonant of the Emerald Isle. Lord Gyllene is from New Zealand, that is where his stamina and his indifference to the wicked tamperings of this historic event were bred, and the name given to him at birth was described by his owner, Stan Clarke, as "an accident".

There were, mercifully, few accidents and no incidents on the day Aintree went open to the public. The crowd, maybe as many as 20,000, had perhaps been attracted by the curiosity, by the free entry, by the symbolic statement of the race itself, the statement summed up by the Prime Minister: "I think the whole British nation wished to see this race run, it is a message that nobody can bomb Britain out of our national instincts, our national habits. It is a clear message to the IRA."

The presence of the Prime Minister, arriving 40 minutes before the off in a red helicopter, and the return of Princess Anne, who had been swiftly spirited away on Saturday, denoted the togetherness with which the British wished to signal their determination to pursue the pleasures and the practices of life as our ancestors laid them down.

To be sure, the smell of leather came within a ring of steel; seldom, if ever, in this country has a sporting event been attended by so many armed police, by so much fear and loathing and political overtone. The joy of racing came despite the dread of disaster. And, in the event, the real sadness was the authentic chill that comes to many a National, the loss of two horses, Smith's Band and Straight Talk, fallers that died.

The droning of hooves along the 4½-mile track had to compete with the chatter of helicopter blades hovering watchfully above. Referring back to Saturday, Dobbin said: "It's just shameful, it makes you ashamed to admit you come from there [Ireland]."

He shook his head, turned towards his girlfriend, Vicki, and repeated: "It just never should have happened."

It is a sure bet that he was not talking about his taking a place in the history of the world's most demanding steeplechase. Dobbin, like many

in the sport, particularly the close-knit National Hunt variety, acquired his love of equine pursuit across the Irish Sea. Indeed, his mentor was Jonjo O'Neill, who instilled in Dobbin a thirst for victory and a relish of the good times.

Both fitted perfectly yesterday with the mood of Liverpool. The people queued in the streets outside, seven abreast and miles deep. Not all of them, by any means, were racing addicts. The truth was sweetly articulated by a young mother, clutching her two babies: "I was only going out shopping, and then I found this queue and I heard it was free," she said.

By the time her vigil was over and she joined the throng inside, much of yesterday's early oppression had dissipated. At 11am, there had been the atmosphere of a high security prison; at 2pm, the band of the 1st Battalion of the Gurkhas struck up: strange and slightly

unnerving, the swirl of pipes trying to drum up atmosphere where it had expired on Saturday.

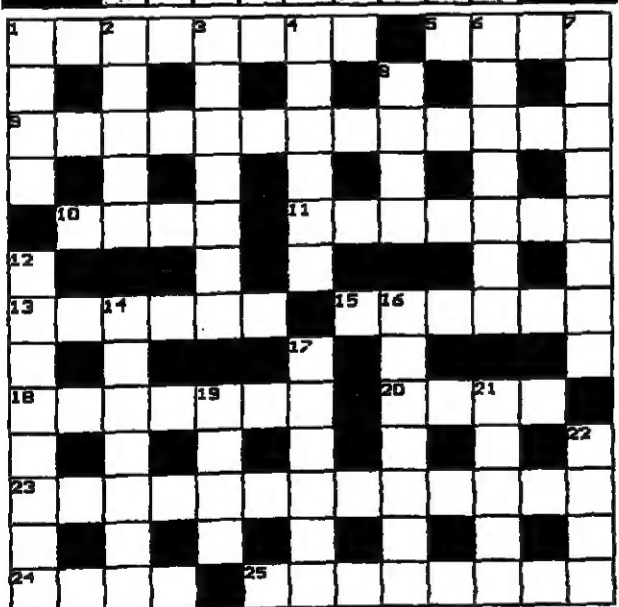
Around the pipers, the police were still completing their work, still sniffing around flowerpots and platforms, including that beneath the new bust of Peter O'Sullivan. Where his commentary had been closed down under emergency procedures, we now prayed for silence on the telephone into the police command centre.

In fact, Paul Stephenson, Assistant Chief Constable of Merseyside, admitted: "A number of calls have been received. They were evaluated and dealt with. I will not elaborate further, but we were not willing to compromise on the risk to anyone."

There had been two alerts in the morning, neither of them from the dreaded source. In truth, had a call come, indeed had there been ten warnings, Aintree's Grand National would have gone ahead yesterday at 5pm... and, as a last contingency, every spectator in the stands, the Prime Minister and the Princess Royal among them, would have been evacuated to the turf inside the racetrack, such was the determination of all concerned.

The longest face was that of an on-course bookmaker who claims that his bag, containing £2,000 in banknotes, had disappeared between Saturday and Monday. The happiest? It was a toss-up between Dobbin, the jockey from Downpatrick, O'Sullivan, at last allowed a dignified final shout, and the bomb squad detectives, whose arduous work looked very much like wasted time. Oh, blessed waste, and blessed relief.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1062

ACROSS

- 1 Derision (5)
5 Philosopher sounds like insincere talk (4)
9 One living in purchased house (5-5)
10 Group (of girls) (4)
11 Very last part (4-3)
13 A glass, stranger (6)
15 Follow (one) secretly (5)
16 Tell trustingly (7)
20 Wander at large (4)
23 From ages ago (4,3,2,4)
24 Swallow hard (4)
25 10¹² (formerly 10¹⁸) (5)

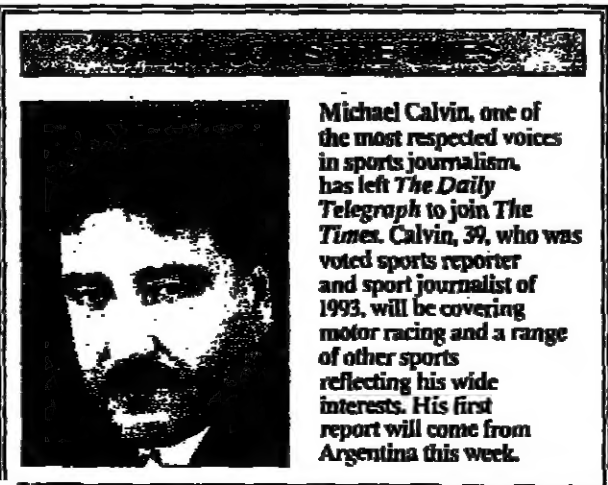
DOWN

- 1 Bird; castle (4)
2 Thick (5)
3 The Sage of Chelsea (7)
4 Fixed position of (6)
6 Liquorice-flavour plant (7)
7 Refuse; prepare bed for night (4,4)
8 Sacred Jap. mountain (4)
12 Label showing cost (5,3)
14 Least (adj.) (7)
16 Wounding (7)
17 Turn septic (6)
19 Orthodox sacred picture (4)
21 Defence of absence (5)
22 Paradise garden (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1061

- ACROSS: 1 Cramped 5 Abut 9 Tapir 10 Boswell 11 Armistice Day 12 Beign 13 Monaco 16 Marseillaise 19 Kennedy 20 Balot 21 Now 22 Pre-empt

- DOWN: 1 Cite 2 Aspirin 3 Packing men 4 Debate 6 Breed 7 Tally-ho 8 Psychobabble 12 Bumpkin 14 Absalom 15 Play up 17 Renew 18 Post



Michael Calvin, one of the most respected voices in sports journalism, has left *The Daily Telegraph* to join *The Times*. Calvin, 39, who was voted sports reporter and sport journalist of 1993, will be covering motor racing and a range of other sports reflecting his wide interests. His first report will come from Argentina this week.

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